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OF THE

NEW JERSEY MEDICAL REPORTER.

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DEATH OF JAMES NICHOLS, M.D.,

OF NEWARK, N. J.

At a special meeting of the Essex County Medical Society, held June 18th 1849, at the house of Dr. L. A. Smith, with reference to the death of Dr. James Nichols, a highly respectable member of the the profession, and late President of the Society, it was

Resolved, That as the tribute of their unsigned sorrow, for the decease of their late friend and brother, the members of the Society will attend his funeral in a body, and wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate to the family of the deceased, the respectful sympathies of the Society in their painful bereavement.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Newark Daily Advertiser and the New Jersey Medical Reporter.

JNO. F. WARD, *President.*

A. N. DOUGHERTY, Jr., *Secr'y pro tem.*

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THE
NEW JERSEY MEDICAL REPORTER.

VOL. II. SEVENTH MONTH, (JULY,) 1849. No. 4.

TRANSACTIONS OF NEW JERSEY MEDICAL SOCIETY.
SCIENCE, SOUND PHILOSOPHY AND CULTIVATED INTELLIGENCE, THE TRUE BASIS OF MEDICAL REPUTATION.

An Address delivered May 8th, 1849, before the Medical Society of New Jersey, by Samuel H. Pennington, M. D., President.

The annual assemblage of the representatives of a liberal profession, from all sections of an extended commonwealth, while it is very properly and agreeably made the occasion for the interchange of the salutations of professional brotherhood, would fail to accomplish the highest ends it is suited to subserve, were it not also employed in concerting measures to promote its usefulness and advance its reputation. This sentiment, which thus generally expressed commands a ready acquiescence, will not be dissented from, when specially applied to the medical profession. It is no undue exaltation of their importance, when to the subjects with which it is concerned, is assigned the precedence of all others connected with mere secular science, that can engage the human intellect. The consideration, therefore, of the means which may, with greatest advantage, be used to facilitate the acquisition, and extend the boundaries of medical knowledge, cannot fail at all times to hold the prominent place among the contemplations of the thoughtful physician; nor can he ever regard, with unconcern, whatever may tend to impair that public confidence in his art, on which depend his opportunities for applying its beneficent resources to the wel-

fare of his species. Especially appropriate are such considerations to an occasion like the present: and I am persuaded that, in directing the reflections of my medical brethren to topics having reference to the subject last named, instead of asking their attention to a disquisition on the pathology and treatment of some specific form of disease, I shall not be thought to misuse the short space I am required, by the laws of the society, at this time, to occupy.

"Opinio facit medicos" was one of the favorite phrases of derogation by which that prototype of empirical insolence, Paracelsus, was accustomed to express his contempt of the medical profession. Though we may not admit the justice of the remark in its disparaging import, we cannot be insensible of the value of a proper appreciation by the public sentiment. It is unquestionably true—as every one, who has sagaciously analyzed the elements of the popular belief, must admit—that the current opinions of the masses are rarely a just measure of the merit of the men or systems they uphold or condemn. Even in regard to subjects that can properly be supposed to be within the legitimate scope of their observation and capacity, these opinions are not embraced as the result of deliberate investigation, and on the basis of ascertained evidence, but, whether just or unjust, they are far more likely to have their origin in caprice, the controlling influence of others, imagined interest, or the prejudices of education, association or affinity, than in any considerations adequate to form the foundation of an enlightened and independent judgment. If this be a true representation of the grounds of popular belief on subjects of a less recondite nature, it should not be considered surprising that the public estimate of the medical profession, and of medical systems, should bear little relation to the truthfulness of those systems, or the scientific merits of the men who are engaged in their pursuit. But, beside the more common causes of error in human judgment, there are others which exert a special influence in perverting public opinion in regard to

medical subjects. These subjects are beyond the range of common apprehension ; the facts, with which they are concerned, are not on the surface and open to the universal inspection ; and the laws by which they are to be interpreted, cannot be appreciated and applied, without cultivation and discipline. Hence, the popular mind is incapable of properly estimating high professional attainment, or of distinguishing real knowledge from boastful pretension ; and finds cause for withholding its confidence, not in any deficiencies it can discover, but in the false allegations and assumptions of those whose interest it is to deceive and mislead it. Even educated men, not disposed to cast opprobrium upon the profession, or to impute to its members any greater deficiencies than are incident to man's limited capacities and their exercise in a species of inquiry more intricate than appertains to any other department of human learning—on account of the mystery in which the functions of the human organization are involved, the difficulties, or as they would say, the impossibility of tracing the causes of either normal or morbid action, and the variety of circumstances, unappreciable by the senses, which modify their operation—are induced to regard our whole science as a hypothetical figment, our rationalia fallacious, our most sagacious conclusions conjectural, and our practical appliances of doubtful efficacy. There are others again, educated men too, who, tinctured with the superstitions of a former age, and believing diseases to be positive entities, which, like the evil spirits of holy writ, require to be cast out by some species of instantaneous exorcism, cannot be satisfied with a system that aims to remove them by patiently searching out and removing their causes ; but would fain seek in mesmerism or some similar delusion, a charm against “ all the ills that flesh is heir to.”

In view of these diversified influences tending to prejudice public opinion, we need be in no degree embarrassed to account for the fact, which cannot have failed to impress the most casual observer of the manifestations of popular

sentiment, that—notwithstanding the more strictly philosophical manner in which, during the last half century, medical investigations have been conducted—notwithstanding the amazing discoveries that, in consequence of this improvement in its methods of investigation, have been made in the etiology, pathology, and diagnosis of disease—and the more enlightened and rational modes of treatment which have resulted from the contributions thus made to medical knowledge—the hold of the profession on the public confidence is less strong than at any previous period of its history. But we need not, on this account, to feel dismay or self-reproach. The distrust which has succeeded the abandonment, by the professors of the medical art, of the assumptions of mysterious knowledge and super-human skill that characterized their early predecessors, and the adoption of more rational modes of practice in their stead, should not be regarded as cause for humiliation, any more than the superstitious deference which was for centuries paid to such pretensions, should be referred to with professional pride and complacency. Nor, on the other hand, shall we be justified in treating the popular prejudice with supercilious contempt. We boast that we are a liberal and philanthropic profession; and we are bound, by the considerations of humanity, as well as by the law of christian charity to seek the good of them "that despitefully use and persecute us." Let us then treat with forbearance, and even kindness, those whose limited means of knowledge disqualify them for a just judgment, and, while we strive to dispel prejudices honestly entertained, endeavor to impress those with respect, whose employments in intellectual pursuits of an analogous nature, fits them to entertain a proper estimate of the scientific character of our investigations. There is no disposition among the professors of genuine learning and science in other departments, to disparage what is truly meritorious in ours. The solecism, that education and an accurate acquaintance with anatomy, physiology, pathology and the kindred

branches of medical study, are positive disqualifications, and that a class of men who have notoriously given them little if any attention, will furnish the safest practitioners—how extensively soever it be adopted by those who regard all learning as a monopoly, is too absurd to be for a moment tolerated by men of cultivation and sober reflection. An eminent and accomplished member of a sister profession, whose views always command respect for their strong sense and general accuracy—in terms of commendation strikingly in contrast with some of his weaker and less distinguished brethren—who have demeaned their sacred calling by their endorsement of quackery, thus expresses his estimate of the philosophic spirit which now presides over medical inquiries. “The medical profession in all its branches has deserved attractions. From the dexterous management of magical incantations of ancient times, to the more sober investigations of times less ancient, and the still more solid deductions of the inductive philosophy which have been extended to the animal economy in our own days, this department furnishes a beautiful and brilliant comment upon that spirit of accurate and unwearied research, of which there are so many living and illustrious examples.”* Such, if we are faithful to ourselves, and properly estimate and perform the duties of our important mission, we may feel assured, will be the candid sentiment of every enlightened and cultivated understanding.

It is of importance then that we inquire, by what means we may best secure the confidence of enlightened minds in the other walks of life. Prominent among these, will be found the maintenance of an elevated position in the varied departments of scientific learning.

By a kind of common consent, the courtesy of mankind has bestowed upon the members of our profession generally, a designation of distinction only extended in the sister pro-

* Rev. Dr. Spring on the power of the pulpit.

fessions, to such as have reached the highest attainments in the sciences with which they are respectively concerned. How so honorable a distinction came, with such partiality to be applied, is of less consequence than its pertinency. Whether fortuitous or the result of design, it implies great scientific pre-eminence, and imposes upon us the corresponding duty of sedulously caring, lest by our deficiencies in these respects, the epithet of distinction become a mortifying misnomer. It was a sentiment of Sir Matthew Hale, which that distinguished jurist illustrated by his own literary and philosophic researches, that "a man cannot be thoroughly master of his own profession without a tincture of the other sciences." And it is a subject of congratulation that the prevalence of a similar sentiment within its ranks has found so many practical exemplifications in the medical profession. The records of every age bear honorable testimony to medical devotion and zeal. Not the departments strictly pertaining to the profession; not those even which are closely allied, have limited the extent of its profound researches; but philosophy and learning, in all their diversified walks, have been illustrated and adorned by its manifold and valuable contributions. Even in the graceful departments of elegant letters and poetry, its genius has not been unemployed; but through its Garths and Goldsmiths, its Akensides and its Armstrongs—not to name living men and our own countrymen—it has nobly vindicated the justice of the conception of the ancient mythology, which called upon its votaries, in the same deity, to adore

"One power of physic, melody and song."

But while it is undoubtedly true that science and polite learning owe at least as much to the medical profession as to any other, it is not to be concealed that the debt is chiefly due to the genius and labors of the few; while there exist, in the great majority of its members, a tendency to be content with the smallest amount of general scientific attain-

ment and literary culture, which will enable them to maintain with a bare respectability their social position. It is to no purpose to say, in extenuation of this state of things, that literary accomplishments will not make their possessor a more skilful practitioner ; or, that the natural sciences have been found by the investigations of the physiologist to have a very limited application to the phenomena of organized being ; and that, therefore, for any practical benefit to be derived from them, their cultivation may be dispensed with. If their value be measured by their direct adaptation to the purposes of practice, and no regard be had to their bearing on professional reputation, or their use as a means of intellectual development, this may all be true ; but such is not the popular belief ; nor will such a pretence satisfy educated and intelligent men. It is a plea for indolence ; an apology for deterioration ; and, in an age of universal progress, will not avail to avert the degradation from its rank among the liberal sciences, that must beset any profession which, in any respect or degree, recedes from the position of advancement it has once occupied.

Important to the reputation of the profession as is an adequate familiarity with general science and literature, it is of course subordinate to the maintenance of a high standard of attainment in the several branches, which constitute the proper subjects of medical study. The indispensable necessity of this is a thing so obvious, that it would be superfluous to make it the subject of extended remark. If there is any dereliction in this respect, it is to be sought, not so much in the neglect to become accurately familiar with the details of medical science, as in the want of a right apprehension of its great principles and their patient, philosophic application in the elucidation of the characteristics of disease ; and, more especially, in the omission to keep pace with the progress of medical discovery, and the culpable apathy which pervades the mass of its members, with regard to original investigations and additions to the stock of professional knowledge.

And here let me not be misunderstood. I am not unmindful of, nor would I undervalue the splendid triumphs which have rewarded the recent researches of distinguished men, in the strictly medical sciences, and which have signalized the present period of medical history, beyond any and all that have preceded it. Brilliant, however, as these have been, and creditable as they are to the present state of professional knowledge—like the eminence, of which I have spoken, in general science—they are the peculiar glory of the indefatigable men who have achieved them; and, even if known and appreciated by the world, could not determine the character of the whole profession, nor cancel the obligation resting upon each of its members, by his own personal labors, to assist in extending its conquests over the hidden things of nature, and adding to its resources against the ravages of disease.

What we need is, that the same unfaltering zeal, the same spirit of philosophical research, which have distinguished the few, should pervade the whole. How far, as a profession, we fall short of this, is in the power of every one to estimate, by observing the habits of his own professional circle, and, in a more practical sense, by turning his scrutiny in upon himself. With a full knowledge of the difficulties that embarrass medical investigations, of the many sources of error which make it necessary that every step be taken with the utmost circumspection, and of the necessity that every minute fact be recognized and carefully weighed, before disease can be comprehended and remedies rightly applied—of the large proportion of practitioners, how cursory and superficial are the inquiries at the bed-side, how insufficient the grounds of diagnosis, how hasty the prescriptions, and how prone the disposition, after completing the round of daily duty, to seek diversion from the reflection and study which a proper sense of responsibility to the patient and to science requires, in the pleasures of the social circle, in political excitements, or in pursuits which, though in a low

sense of valuation they may promise more profitable returns, deprave the taste for intellectual employments, and disqualify the mind for serious and philosophic thought. It is from the want of this lofty professional zeal, that so many are ready to receive, without challenge, whatever of alleged fact is invested with some degree of authority, and to adopt, without inquiry, any hypothesis, which, on superficial consideration, seems plausible—that, in daily practice, too much by us all, the symptoms that come palpably within the scope of the external senses rather than the pathological conditions—the true appreciation of which, can only be arrived at by thoughtful observation and the exercise of a discriminating judgment, form the basis of diagnosis; and that, in the use of remedies, their applicability is determined more by a view to certain general effects than by any correct apprehension of their specific modes of operation. Who can be surprised, when such intellectual indolence prevails in the profession, that the practice of so many should degenerate into mere routine; that so little is accomplished by them in the way of original contributions to its advancement; and that observing men, in the other walks of life, should regard the epithet *Doctor*, as designating, not as the term implies, a man of profound erudition, but in the words of the patent dictionary, as “one who pours drugs of which he knows little, into bodies of which he knows less.”

Nor, is it merely for the sake of the reputation of the profession, that the cultivation of habits of reflection and zealous research is demanded of its members. The conscientious physician cannot be a man of mere routine; he cannot content himself with the ability to apply to the more ordinary forms of disease their proper nosological designation, and administer his emetic, cathartic, and diaphoretic, in unreasoning subservience to the system of practice in vogue in his day. With feelings keenly alive to the welfare of his patient, and anxiously regarding his responsibilities, his own peace of mind cannot be maintained unless every symptom

—the least obvious not less than the most striking—is minutely scanned, every derangement of structure, or function discovered, the therapeutic agent selected with strict reference thereto, and the various modifying circumstances which may defeat or disturb its appropriate action, carefully sought out and guarded against. With demands so imperiously pressing upon him for the sedulous employment of all the powers of his intellect, surely no physician, who is penetrated with a proper feeling of responsibility, can consent to yield himself up to thoughtless inactivity, content himself with present attainments, or perform his weighty duties with haste and inconsideration. An ancient moralist, impressed with an overwhelming sense of the obligations resting upon the physician of his day, when scanty principles of diagnosis, entire ignorance of the anatomy of morbid structures, and consequently very inadequate sources of pathological knowledge, and a *materia medica*, whose revelations—chemistry being unknown—were confined to a very meagre account of physical properties, greatly limited the field of medical investigation—found sufficient cause to exclaim “*Quid horum raptim fieri potest? Quis medicus ægrotos in transitu curat?*” With ten-fold pertinency may we apply the interrogative remonstrance to ourselves, who live in an era when the range of professional inquiry, in all its departments has become so much extended, and the consequent demand for patient, diligent, and persevering study so immeasurably increased. Let medical men be generally imbued with a devotion and zeal commensurate with their augmented obligations: let them employ, with enlightened discretion, the agencies which modern research has provided, not neglecting to add to these the results of their own earnest and independent investigations; and idle clamors against them will cease, delusions will vanish, and public confidence in true science will be permanently restored. Then may the physician enter the sick-room with a good degree of confidence in his own, and the resources of his noble

profession, and, though he may frequently be called to lament the inedequacy of them all to the preservation of human life, he will still have abundant reason, in his general success, for the consolitory conviction that the science, to which he has devoted his energies, rests on a solid foundation, and will supply him with instrumentalities capable of exerting all the control over the progress and ravages of disease, which can be expected of mere human science and human skill.

It is further of importance to the progress of medical knowledge and the confirmation of the position of the profession in the public esteem, that its investigations should be prosecuted under the guidance of a sound logic and philosophy.

It has been greatly to the reproach of medical science that, from the period of its rescue from the delusions of Egyptian Priests, and its assumption of the character of a rational system under the later Grecian Asclepiades, it has never ceased to be the prolific source of hypothetical speculation. That such should have been the case during those periods of its history, when the same tendency characterized all other philosophical pursuits, is not to be regarded as either remarkable or peculiarly discreditable. When men, who were, and are still, reputed the wisest of antiquity, disdaining to occupy their thoughts with subjects of practical utility, employed themselves in barren discussions about the essences of things, the greatest possible good, whether we can be certain of any thing, and a thousand other equally impracticable and profitless abstractions; when physical science was pursued, not that human power might be more advantageously applied to the promotion of human convenience and comfort, but merely on account of its adaptedness to give exercise to an intellectual subtlety, and not subserve the purposes of dialectic disputation; when the laws of the universe were sought to be deduced, not by an observation of phenomena, but, by some sublime conception of genius, by cu-

rious speculations about the aggregation of atoms, and obscure surmises concerning the collision and combination of its imagined elements; it cannot well be expected that medical doctrines should have been more free from fanciful hypothesis, or its investigations pursued with a more rational method. When, therefore, we find Hippocrates blending with his theories of pathology the tenets of the Pythagorean philosophy; and, in somewhat later periods, Themiston advocating a system based on the Epicurean notion of atoms, and their free or obstructed distribution through relaxed or constricted pores; Celsus proposing his hypothesis of crudity and concretion; and Galen, notwithstanding his professed reliance on the results of observation and experience, and his reputed diligence in their pursuit, obstinately clinging to and refining upon the doctrine of the four elements and the four primary qualities of the four humors—how much soever we may lament such perversion of human genius and industry—we are not required to confess to any greater misdirection of their powers than was exhibited in the scientific labors of their philosophic contemporaries. For the hypothetical systems which, for the last two centuries have successively swayed medical opinion and practice, there is less reason for extenuation. The great author of the *Instauration of the Sciences*, had now indicated the true direction in which to search for the primal laws of nature; the inductive method of investigation which had been obscurely hinted at by Aristotle, and, to a limited extent, practised by Hippocrates and Galen, had now been fully recognized and successfully pursued in the several departments of physical science; and the vagaries of Pythagoras and the Ptolemies, had been superseded by the certain deductions of Kepler, Huygens, Newton, and their illustrious successors. While this revolution, so honorable to those who were engaged in their prosecution, was thus going forward in the other branches of philosophical research; it is a humiliating reflection, that generations must elapse—during which system after system,

scarcely less absurd than those that prevailed in remote antiquity, must successively fall beneath the accumulating weight of exceptionable facts—before medical men could learn the lesson that all theory which has not its foundation in the observation and proper generalization of phenomena must be unstable, and tend to unsatisfactory and erroneous conclusions.

The lesson has, however, at length been learned ; and we may congratulate ourselves that the dominion of fanciful hypothesis, within the ranks of the legitimate profession at least, is at an end ; and that a prospect is open for as brilliant successes in its departments of research, as have signalized the labors of the Natural Philosopher in the exploration of the mysteries of the great universe. These successes are to be sought in the same path of inquiry, in the use of the same philosophic method, and with the same rigid application of the rules of a rational logic. I am aware that, on account of the profitless abstractions in which the syllogistic system of Aristotle was employed by the ancient philosophers, and the absurd conclusions to which—because of the unsoundness of their premises—they were so often led, many are disposed to reject as useless all rules for the regulation of the understanding, in its processes of ratiocination. This disposition arises from an erroneous apprehension of their true province. Systems of logic are not so much designed to establish truth, as to analyze the process through which the mind passes in its search after it ; to lay down a formula which should comprise every step essential to a sound argument, and by which all our reasonings may be compared and tested. Their use is confined to the deduction of conclusions from premises ; and these may be ascertained principles or assumed hypotheses. If these are sound, and the case to which they are applied falls legitimately within their purview, the conclusion is certain and true. But logical systems may be used for the establishment of error. When this is the case, the source of fallacy will be found either in

the assumption of some specious but false principle ; or in including, under a correct principle of limited application, particulars to which they have no relevancy. Instances of error from both these sources are abundant in the various theories, ancient and modern, to which reference has been made as distinguishing the history of medical opinions. They are even now constantly occurring in the novelties which, in this age of moral revolution succeed each other with such amazing rapidity, and by their plausible sophistries, entice so many weak and undisciplined minds into delusions and practices which will hereafter overwhelm them with mortification and chagrin. If we would provide the profession with an effectual safeguard against contamination by them, it must be by inculcating the necessity of such a familiarity with logical reasoning, as will enable its members to seize the clew to fallacy however ingeniously it may be interwoven with plausibilities, and prepare them to combat error through the legitimate use of the very weapons with which she seeks to secure her triumphs.

But systems of logic are not alone sufficient for the evolution of scientific truth. The Greek sophists were thorough masters of the syllogism. They reasoned acutely and even justly ; but, led by their fondness for dialectics to overlook facts, they assumed their first principles ; and the systems of physics and medicine deduced from them were, as we have seen, necessarily chimerical and often ridiculously absurd. It is only by uniting a sound philosophy with a systematic logic that we can arrive at sure results : the former, to guide us in proper methods for the collection and classification of facts and phenomena, from which to infer general laws ; the latter, to prove the inference thus deduced to be correct, by making these general laws the premises of a process of argument, and by the rigid application of the rules of ratiocination, showing that the phenomena from which they have been deduced, are the legitimate consequences of their operation.

The collection of facts and phenomena, with a view to the deduction of the principles of medicine, belongs to a field of investigation, which, until recently, has been much neglected, and from the cultivation of which, the most valuable fruits are to be anticipated. Without descending minutely into so elementary a matter as the detail of the steps essential to the conduct of the inductive process—now the recognized method of philosophic research.

It is a great mistake to suppose that the phenomena of organic existences are not as susceptible of classification and their relations as certain as those of inanimate matter. They are more involved it is true. We have to deal with subjects that cannot be submitted, with the same facility, to repeated experiment in every variety of connection; nor can we guard as effectually against the intervention of disturbing influences. These circumstances may encompass our researches with embarrassments, and cause our progress to be slow, and for a time, uncertain; but they by no means demonstrate the impotence, or derogate from the value of method and logical system in their prosecution. Let him who doubts, impartially review the history of medical inquiry since the commencement of the present century, and compare our present precise knowledge on many subjects with the multifarious conjectures which then prevailed, and he will doubt no longer. Let him contemplate the progress which, under the guidance of the principles of investigation and reasoning to which I have referred, has been made, by researches in the departments of animal and vegetable physiology, toward the establishment of the laws of vital action as they respectively concern the solids and the fluids—the present advanced state of our knowledge in regard to the endowments of the different parts of the nervous system, and the facilities which that knowledge has provided to aid us in our diagnosis of the intricate and perplexing diseases to which that system is subject—the near approaches that have been made to a perfect analysis of the constituents of

the blood, to the establishment of the fact of the presence in it of the materials, fully formed, of the several secretions and excretions, to the consequently more accurate comprehension of functions of the emunctories, and to a familiarity with the motive powers by which the blood is distributed through both the larger vessels and the capillaries—the additional light which has been thrown upon the process of digestion, and the valuable contributions to our knowledge of the essential constituents of alimentary substances—the more satisfactory character of our information in regard to the causes of disease, both pre-disposing and exciting; among the former, the influence of depressing causes existing long previous to the development of diseased action; and among the latter, the agency of morbid poisons, of contagion and malaria, whose respective limitations have been so nearly defined by means of investigations pursued, with immense sacrifice and exposure, by distinguished medical philosophers as well on this, as on the other side of the Atlantic—and, above all, the extent of the discoveries in morbid anatomy, and the accurate knowledge attained through them of the pathology of textures; the distinctness and precision with which the symptoms that denote particular lesions, have been detailed; and the increased facility, in the use of the various improved methods of diagnosis—especially when they concern the viscera of the thorax and abdomen—with which they can be detected and distinguished. Let these and the numerous other contributions to precise knowledge, of which they are but the example, be but properly estimated, and doubt will give place to admiring confidence; and none will hesitate to admit the beneficial results which may be expected to accrue to the profession; from the more general prevalence of the true philosophic spirit and greater attention to logical investigation.

I have already incidentally alluded to the novel system based on specious principles, which have of late found favor with the public, and greatly to its discredit among men of

science, even deluded some members of the profession ; and, in connexion with the allusion, I referred to the protection against them afforded by logical training. To this end, a sound philosophy is no less necessary. At a time like the present, when respect for old systems—whether in physics, morals, theology, or medicine—is thought to indicate want of independence and savor of too slavish an acquiescence to the dicta of authority, it requires more than ordinary firmness to resist the inroads of innovation. The man who has accustomed himself to build his conclusions on the basis of safe induction from indisputable facts, and these only, will find himself established on a foundation that cannot be undermined by the suggestion of plausible possibilities, and be little liable to be misled by the mysticisms of those who, living in an ideal world of their own creating, hold in contempt the facts and occurrences of the world around them. Such a one will not be likely to learn philosophy from a Fichte or a Schelling, theology from a Strauss or a Hegel, or medicine from a Pressnitz or a Hahnemann. His strong common sense, disciplined and fortified in the intellectual gymnastics of the Baconian method, will incline him to rely on that which experience and established facts have fully proved, and, if medicine be his profession, he will be in no danger of turning his back on a medical philosophy which teaches that diseases are to be removed by the removal of their causes, to adopt, from an affectation of independence, or some worse motive, that most miserable of the mystical extravagances of transcendental Germany, whose peculiar boast it is, that it removes morbid effects by adding to the causes that produce them.

In connexion with the subject just considered, I should not omit to refer to an element essential to a well regulated understanding, and, therefore, indispensable to the completion of the medical character, and to medical reputation: viz. the importance of the recognition, by the physician, of the supremacy of conscience, as well in his philosophical re-

searches as in his professional intercourse. Without enlarging on this point, I may remark, that as truth is our aim, the love of truth should be our guiding principle. Under its direction, the humblest mental powers will be often led to right intellectual apprehensions: without it, the most brilliant genius will as often, by its own inspirations, be seduced into dangerous error. United with the logical and philosophical training which we have been considering, it will prove a most effectual corrective of that tenacity for theoretical prepossessions which is so often, and with some success, charged upon the profession by its enemies. Though this charge is not a little inconsistent with another urged with equal pertinacity by the same class of objectors, viz: that in nothing are the mutations of human opinion more remarkable than in medical doctrines—it is nevertheless to be so far regarded as to lead to the observance of proper precautions, lest our conduct give color to the allegation. This precaution will be best exercised by keeping constantly in mind the thought, so well expressed by Dr. Pritchard in the discussion of another subject, that “what is actually true, it is most desirable to know, whatever consequences may result from the admission.” By adhering to this principle, with candor and honesty of purpose, both in regard to our own cherished prepossessions and the theories opposed to them, we shall most surely serve the ends of truth and escape the imputation of an opinionated illiberality. This principle, I think it may be confidently affirmed, now distinguishes professional inquiries; and to it is due that remarkable exemption from attachment to exclusive systems which constitute the crowning excellence of the present era of medical philosophy. If it is true that the regular profession presents an unbroken front in resistance of novel theories, it is because these theories are pure creations of speculative fancy, or founded on a partial array of unauthenticated assumptions, and not because of any prevailing predilections for particular systems of pathology for which they are proposed as

substitutes. Whatever may have been the case in times gone by, the most sagacious revilers of the profession may be challenged to point to any pathological dogma, that can at the present moment, rally to its support its servile train of unreasoning adherents. The humoralist, the solidist, and the vitalist, no more than the chrono-thermalist, and the electro-psychologist; the exclusive disciples of Stahl, of Cullen, of Brown, and of Brussais, no more than of Hahneman and of Dickson, are any where to be found within the recognized ranks of the profession: and its members may justly claim the right to appropriate to themselves the Horatian motto,

"Nullius addicti jurare in verba magistri."

Occupying this proud position of independence—an independence not the less genuine, because not popularly appreciated—it may calmly pursue its disinterested explorations into the domains of truth, prepared to adopt every thing that can maintain its claim to the character of a real discovery, while despite the blusterings of the charlatan, and the senseless clamors of his deluded emissaries, it steadily and resolutely holds on to that which it has proved to be good.

Some of the processes which have been referred to as essential in the conduct of philosophical investigations, require but the possession of mental independence, and the ordinary faculty of observation. Of this character are the mechanical occupations of collecting facts and giving them general expression. Their proper classification, the apprehension of the fundamental principle, the leading idea, that underlies them, and the determination of the relations of causation, whether they concern the origin of disease or the efficacy of remedial agents, are processes which require not extensive and thorough knowledge only, but a perception sharpened by nice and practiced observation, a judgment rendered sound and discriminating, by the steady contemplation of every thing of which it takes cognizance in its

true relations, and an industry which admits neither of diversion nor remission. These are to be acquired only by those habits of intellectual activity, attention, concentration, and mental and moral control, which constitute a well balanced understanding. This leads me to refer to another element essential to the maintenance of the reputation as well as the usefulness of the profession, viz: a proper regard to the preliminary training of those who are admitted to its privileges.

It is but too obvious, that, in medical not less than in the other branches of education, the utilitarian principle, which seems particularly to characterize our age and country, has a much larger share of influence than the desire for solid acquisition; and time is scarcely afforded for the attainment of more than a mere smattering of the medical sciences; much less, for the prosecution of studies suited to give maturity and method to the mental faculties. The usage has become so universal, and has been so long continued, that it will be difficult to effect its entire subversion. Attention has however, been awakened to the subject, and from the deliberations of the National Medical Association, we may hope for salutary reforms. But, however that may be, it cannot be too much to require that, in regard to the prosecution of professional study at least, this limited period be entirely and faithfully employed. Those young men who waste their time without settled purpose, fitfully alternating between study and pleasure, or study and other business, "all things by starts and nothing long," can hardly be supposed to have attained either such an amount of intellectual discipline or well digested knowledge, as to qualify them for the investigations in which they will be called to engage, or to be safely entrusted with so responsible a charge as the guardianship of human life: and medical colleges and medical boards cannot well answer it to their consciences, if persons of such a description are suffered to pass without the most rigid scrutiny, if admitted to an examination at all.

Serious as is the evil just referred to, it is not of greater magnitude than the increasing neglect of preliminary training, as preparatory to the course of professional study, and especially of the kind of study best adapted to give the vigor and expansion of the intellectual powers so essential to the well equipped physician. In this connexion I cannot but allude to the growing disposition to dispense with the study of the ancient classics, and express the regret with which, when in attendance on the sessions of the National Association, I have heard it proposed to limit the amount of classical knowledge to be required, by its sufficiency to enable the student to write a prescription correctly and understand medical nomenclature. If this were the only advantage to be derived from such study, it might well be dispensed with altogether. Even if it served no better purpose than to qualify medical men to read, in the languages in which they were written, the opinions and modes of practice of the earlier physicians—although an object of some interest to the medical scholar—it might not compensate for the time employed in its acquisition. But if, as I doubt not, it is one of the best modes of so disciplining the mind as to make men discriminate and think, then is it of paramount importance in the preparation for a profession to which none but men of thought and discrimination ought to belong. That it is most effectual to that end must be apparent, when it is considered that to obtain the mastery of these languages requires the closest attention and mental abstraction, the most rigid, toilsome, and searching analysis, consummate ingenuity, the most minute comparisons, and the nicest delicacy of discernment—exercises better suited to give acuteness to the perception, discrimination to the judgment, patient perseverance, concentration and vigor to the powers of the understanding than any or all of the tasks of the memory which occupy so large a share of attention in modern systems of education. If I have not entirely failed of my object, I have shown these to be indispensable to the physician: and if so,

how can too much importance be attached to an exercise which will so thoroughly furnish him for his arduous work.

What has been here said of the value of the classics is equally true of the mathematical, metaphysical, and natural sciences. Of the first of these, Mr. Locke thus speaks; "would you have a man reason well, you must use him to it betimes, exercise his mind in observing the connexion of ideas and following them in train. Nothing does this better than mathematics, which, therefore, I think should be taught all those who have the time and opportunity; not so much to make them mathematicians as to make them reasonable creatures." Similar importance is attached to the study of metaphysics by that scarcely less distinguished modern philosopher, Dugald Stewart, who says that in "the sciences least akin to metaphysics, the greatest improvements appear to have been made by men whose faculties have been trained in that salutary school." The study of natural sciences concurrently with these, will furnish the opportunity for the exercise of the faculties, which they are fitted to develop, in a train of inquiries so analogous to those of our profession, that it should form an indispensable part of a system of preliminary training. Nor should natural history and comparative anatomy—on account of their physiological relations—and chemistry and botany—on account of their connexion with therapeutics—be omitted in the curriculum.

I would not, by what has been here said, be understood to intimate that the young man, who has had the benefit of a collegiate course, is *therefore* to be presumed to have attained the high degree of intellectual discipline required; or, that such discipline may not sometimes be secured by other means. Unfortunately, these certificates are more frequently evidences of opportunities enjoyed, than of acquisitions made; and to the honor of many who have never enjoyed these advantages—of whom I recognize some before me—be it said, that they have secured, by their own efforts, the mental cultivation which not a few, who have had the superior facil-

ties referred to, have miserably failed to attain. But, notwithstanding these honorable exceptions on the one hand, and these discreditable failures on the other, I am confident that my brethren will concur with me in the correctness of the general principle, and in the opinion deduced from it, that it would greatly conduce to the elevation of the intellectual standard of the profession, did our medical boards require a greater amount of evidence of proper preliminary education, than is usually demanded from those who aspire to be invested with its immunities.

But, if to prepare for the labors of philosophic observation and patient thought, which are required of the physician, demands such an amount of cultivation; it is equally important that they, who intend to devote themselves to such a profession should be persons of naturally good intellect. Cultivation evidently pre-supposes capacity. The doctrine of old Helvetius, that the natural endowments of mankind are equal, has in the estimation of all psychologists of received authority, long since exploded. There *are* peculiar mental qualities that adapt their possessor for particular occupations and studies. There *is* a relation between the knowledge to be infused and the capacity to receive it; between the faculties to be educated and the kind of intellectual exercises suited to educate them. If so, and I have not unduly exalted the studies and mental cultivation required in the preparation for the practice of the medical art, we cannot raise too high the standard of mental capacity to be expected in those who seek to thread its mysteries. And yet, I fear that, in this particular, I am not in accordance with the popular sentiment. If we may judge from the number of the intellectually "halt and blind and lame," who because of their supposed unfitness for any other useful employment, are considered eminently qualified to be made *doctors* of, we may well conclude that the popular estimate of the amount of intelligence necessary to fit a man to understand the structure of the human frame—God's noblest work—read its hidden mysteries,

minister to its extreme necessities, and keep in repair its wonderful and complicated machinery, is exceedingly low indeed. But it is a serious, a grievous mistake. "Men do not gather grapes from thorns, nor figs from thistles." You cannot make a philosopher of a man of feeble intellect. You cannot make a reasoning physician of a natural fool. A man of *mere* learning, of *mere* knowledge, he may be; but cram his cranium to its utmost capacity with these things, unless you can make him think, he is but an accomplished fool after all. To such a one, of what use is all the learning

— "O' your schools,
Your Latin names for horns and stools;
If cannie nature made you fools,
What sairs your grammars?
Ye'd better ta'en up spades and shools,
Or knappiu' hammers."

Let medical men indignantly frown upon an injurious public sentiment which would thrust such material upon a learned profession: and let no consideration of friendship or profit induce them to receive under their pupilage, or admit to practice, persons so ill qualified by natural endowments to maintain its character or fulfil its responsible duties.

I have, unavoidably, gentlemen, passed over many topics bearing on the general subject of this address: and even those to which I have invited your attention, I have been obliged, by the limits required by the occasion, merely to advert to, rather than fully to discuss. Your own reflections will doubtless supply my omissions. I know I do not mistake when I say they are worthy of that reflection. The facilities for acquiring knowledge, enjoyed by the communities in which we live and mingle, are becoming yearly multiplied; and, with the increase of facilities then is a corresponding increase of disposition in the public mind, to avail itself of them. It is true that much of the reading furnished in this pamphleteering age, is superficial and trashy: but, in the same cheap form, in which this species of reading ap-

pears, there are frequently thrown before the public, works of profound science and sterling thought. Often, these have an intimate bearing on the branches of knowledge which concern our profession. Besides, works on anatomy, physiology, chemistry and philosophy, are becoming more generally in use in our elementary schools. Those who read these works may not become thoroughly acquainted with the subjects of which they treat. They may, however, learn enough to discover the deficiencies of those who ought to know more; and it is not the foible of the man of little knowledge to be either modest in his estimate of his own acquisitions or charitable in his judgment of the acquisitions of others. They, therefore, whom we admit into our ranks, will stand some chance of being rigidly scrutinized by the world, if they are not by those whose province it is to judge of their qualifications; and, if they are found to be men of superficial attainments and undisciplined understandings, the profession, no less than themselves will suffer from the scrutiny.

Though I fear that I have wearied your attention, I hope, gentlemen, I have been so fortunate as to interest you in the matters so discursively treated; and that, by the train of reflections to which we may be led by them, we may be invigorated in the discharge of our duties, and in the desire to restore what has been lost of an intellectual character and philosophic spirit, to our beloved profession.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR 1849.

In presenting their Annual Report, your committee have to congratulate the society upon the unusual promptness of the District Reporters, in furnishing accounts of the prevalent diseases within their respective neighborhoods, by which the labors of your committee have been considerably lessened, and for which they return their obligations to those gentlemen whose reports are hereto annexed.

The attention of the society is respectfully invited to the importance of a regulation by which the duty of contributing facts and discoveries as the material for the Annual Report be distributed to a greater number of individuals; and they would respectfully recommend that the secretary of each county society be requested to furnish the reporter for the district in which said society may be located, a history of the diseases prevalent within the county; while each member be requested to aid the secretary by communicating to him such facts as may serve to interest and improve the profession; and that such reports, prepared by the secretaries of the county societies, be sent to the reporters of the several districts, on or before the second Tuesday in April, of every year. It is believed that such an arrangement, would greatly facilitate the labors of the Standing Committee, and add much to the fund of information which it is their duty annually to contribute. In addition to the annexed

REPORT FROM THE WESTERN DISTRICT.

Your committee would beg leave to add the following: We experienced during the summer of 1848, the usual variety of complaints incident to the season, without any variation in the manner of their approach, or in the course of

their progression, worthy of particular remark, and enjoyed a considerable immunity from alarming and fatal sickness.

FEVER.

Early in the autumn, fevers of an intermittent type, and of a low remittent form prevailed to a greater extent than is usual in this section of the state. Locations in the country heretofore remarkable for their healthfulness, have been invaded by obstinate intermittent attacks, sometimes degenerating into a continued type, thus rendering the disease more tedious and difficult to manage. The usual treatment in such cases was found sufficient, and but few deaths occurred. Your committee would respectfully solicit the aid of their medical brethren in a more close and thorough investigation of the causes of malarious diseases. Practitioners in the country have ample means of observation, and should employ them faithfully in the search after truth. The various theories of malaria as they have been propounded from age to age, though at times they have met with general professional acceptance, have failed to satisfy the inquiring mind as to their validity, and there is not at this day any settled sentiment to which we may refer as a reason for the origin and progress of fevers. We find marshy districts in some seasons rife with fever, in others, disease infects salubrious locations, where we would suppose the miasmatic infection could not reach; and it becomes us to mark the circumstances which attend the occurrence of these diseases, in the different locations where we practice, in order to find out whether they may not originate in the exuberance of fungus growth which sometimes is remarkable in one season in a low and damp situation, and again, is most prevalent in dry and elevated positions. It has been noted by numerous observers, that in seasons of protracted heat and drought, there have been a great variety of mushrooms, different in character from those which spring up in a few hours after rain; and in pestilential years when disease has

stalked at noonday, and stricken down the high and low alike, there has been noticed an unaccountable appearance of moulds and mildews even during the hottest and driest periods. How far there may be a coincidence in the presence of this class of diseases with these fungus growths; how far the general prevalence of the 'potato rot,' it being a species of fungus development, and the necessity of this vegetable to the common sustenance of the people, may affect the human constitution in pre-disposing it to attacks of fever, or of creating the disease itself, we should seek to ascertain. Without endeavoring to establish any particular theory, we should all be carefully engaged in this fruitful field of research, and gather from it by our experience whatever may tend to enlighten us upon this obscure and doubtful subject. In the winter we were visited by a general prevalence of

ERYSIPelas.

The term is here used as indicating that variety of the disease, which invades the head and face only. The usual symptoms of chilliness, pain in the back and loins, great heat of the face and head, accompanied with a peculiar tingling sensation, increased velocity of the pulse, nausea, and sometimes disturbance of the bowels, were present in the commencement of the attack; the external inflammation progressing to enormous tumefaction of the face and head. In some cases the inflammation burrowed into the areolar tissue beneath the surface, causing suppuration to occur at different points; most of the cases which came under the notice of your committee were attended with soreness of the throat and fauces, dry and brown tongue, and great thirst, which symptoms, together with an enfeebled and irregular pulse indicated a low form of disease. In the township of Springfield, where the epidemic was very severe, there occurred in the practice of Dr. Goodell, a number of malignant cases, assuming in the onset a typhoid and contagious character, and running hastily on to a fatal termination. Though

the cases referred to, are not classified by Dr. Goodell as genuine erysipelas, your committee take pleasure in inserting an abstract of a letter from him to Dr. Stratton, embodying a brief statement of the progress of the disease as it occurred in his neighborhood.

Plattsburg, May 5, 1849.

"Dear Sir,

In compliance with your request, I cheerfully communicate the result of my observations concerning that singular and fatal disease which prevailed within the limits of my practice, and in my own family, during the past winter. The first case occurred early in February, and appeared to radiate among several families by contagion, embracing among its subjects about twenty individuals.

The mode of attack and the early symptoms, presented a remarkable uniformity, though after the third day the morbid phenomena were so dissimilar, and the course of the disease so erratic as to defy all attempts at classification or to indicate any uniform treatment. To avoid repetition I will describe the general character of the cases as far as they were parallel, and then notice the peculiarities which several of them presented as they advanced to a fatal or favorable termination.

In the most severe cases, the patients were overtaken in perfect health, while pursuing their usual avocations or at their meals, with a sense of coldness, followed by nausea, vomiting, and severe chills, pains in the limbs, and particularly the back, breathing hurried, often making sixty respirations per minute, pulse intermitting, slow, great anxiety, and a peculiar decomposition of features with an indescribable distress at the epigastrium. After a few hours reaction would be established; the pulse one hundred and thirty per minute, violent headache, eyes suffused and watery, tongue coated with a whitish slime which even in this early stage inclined to become brown and dry in the centre. The fauces, velum, and tonsils, became swollen, tense, and shining, and

scattered with small vesicles which soon after would burst, leaving an ulcerated surface which continued to discharge a foul sanguous fluid, or was succeeded by a false membranous exudation quite firm and adherent, as though the parts had received several coats of white paint and varnish. These symptoms continued without much aggravation or abatement three or four days. The bowels were easily acted on by cathartics, but they did not exert much control over the symptoms. In most of the cases the inflammation appeared to extend from the throat by the posterior nares to the schniderean membrane, and at the expiration of the third day an erysipelatous redness would appear on the tip of the nose and upper lip, which would either assume a definite form like erysipelas of the face, spreading to the scalp and attacking the extremities, or else would entirely disappear and expend its force in succession on different internal organs, with entire relief to the throat. The prostration of strength in all cases was great. Excepting the slight redness at the tip of the nose, but three cases in the twenty had external erysipelas. In all, the inflammation of the throat subsided as the disease was translated either to the cutaneous surface or to internal organs. In its further progress the peculiarities of each case depended entirely on the structure invaded, and presented few features to indicate the original identity of the disease.

Case 1st, was equivocal in its character. It occurred in a middle aged lady who is subject to mild attacks of erysipelas of the face. Her throat affection and other premonitory symptoms, were attributed to some severe dental operations which she had undergone the day before. The swelling and redness of the face was slight, and convalescence became established in about a week, under the use of lunar caustic to the throat both in solid form and solution, and a few small doses of calomel.

Case 2d, occurred in five days after exposure to contagion. She was a single woman about sixty-five, and was the con-

stant nurse of the first patient. Re-action was never well established. I first saw her on the fourth day of the attack. Her mind was much confused—the parotid and sub-maxillary glands much swollen and hard, an ichorous discharge from the ears—throat of a dark mahogany color, with an offensive sanguous exudation from all parts of the fauces. She died on the sixth day of disease, all my efforts to stimulate her having failed.

Case 3d, was also a lady; her attack was sudden and violent, on the fourth day after exposure to the contagion. The disease appeared to yield readily to treatment. The application of caustic to the throat, and gentle catharsis with calomel, seemed to effect a cure. She returned home on the sixth day of the disease. She complained several days afterwards of pleuritic pains which did not confine her to her room. On the twelfth day of disease the pleuritic pains suddenly subsided, followed by acute peritonitis which terminated fatally in thirty hours.

The peritoneal inflammation commenced at one point in the right illiac region; I was absent from home at the time; on my return I found the abdomen tympanitic, pulse quick and weak, pain excruciating, pulse soon became thready and intermittent, stomach irritable, and collapse speedily ensued, which too clearly admonished me that her own premonitions were about to be sadly realized. Several of the succeeding cases presented nothing peculiar, and readily yielded to the local applications to the throat, and gentle catharsis.

The case of Mr. W. N., was highly instructive and seemed to throw more light on the nature of the malady than any other which occurred. The invasion, same as in the preceding cases. Fauces on the fourth day heavily coated with false membrane; inflammation extended to the nose by the schniederian membrane, then extended over the face and scalp, assuming the definite form of erysipelas of the face; twice it recurred on parts previously affected, and in spite of pencilings with caustic would travel over the same

ground a second time; at one time it showed a strong tendency to fix itself on the brain; coma and violent delirium alternated with each other, which appeared to be relieved by cupping and blisters to the scalp. After leaving the head, the inflammation of the same character extended to the extremities, followed by oedema and loss of muscular power in the parts affected. His recovery has been slow; at the expiration of two months being scarcely able to walk.

The complications vary so much that it is impossible to indicate any general mode of treatment. The utter impotency of any remedial measures after severe peritoneal or meningeal complications have existed several hours, must be acknowledged. General bleeding is rarely admissible, though I believe cases occur where it cannot be dispensed with. I used emetics in two cases, which evidently seemed to be beneficial in arousing congested organs and aiding sudorifics.

I strongly recommend an early resort to diffusible stimulants and quinine, with as nourishing regimen as the patient can bear, to prevent the translation to internal organs. My cases have taught me that a great improvement, or even an entire disappearance of alarming symptoms during the early stage, offers no immunity against metastasis to internal organs.

Yours with great respect,

GEORGE GOODELL."

In other parts of the district the disease has not proved so malignant, and the attacks have generally terminated favorably. The indications for treatment were such as to demand the use of supporting medication and diet, with external applications to arrest the inflammation. After gently evacuating the bowels, the use of quinine was early resorted to in doses of one or two grains every two hours when admissible by the state of the stomach. In some instances the irritability of this organ prevented its administration by the mouth, and it was then given freely by enemata. To

arrest the nausea, no remedies proved so effectual in our hands as the Ammon : Carb: in Emuls : Amygdal : and a prescription composed of Aq: Camph: i,foz. et Spt: Ammon; Aromat : f i3ss : given in teaspoonful doses pro re nata. To the great value of quinine in this disease, your committee can give their united testimony ; its effect in controlling the circulation, in fortifying the system against the accumulating dangers of the disease, its easy administration, its safety, all recommend it as a most important remedial agent. We have known it to be of marked service even in active tonic erysipelas, and have always found it a safe remedy, where conflicting symptoms created doubts as to the propriety of either supporting or depletory treatment. We have no hesitation in believing it to be the most potent constitutional remedy within our reach, as applied to the cure of this formidable malady. The

LOCAL TREATMENT

of erysipelas is a subject of much interest to the profession. Probably there is no question in the whole range of medical discussion in which there is more contrariety of opinion, and difference in the experience of medical practitioners. Every physician has his peculiar mode of practice, founded upon successful individual experience, and while some are prepared to advocate the non application of any external means, others are bold to approbate the virtues of a variety of substances, as different in their properties, as those who may employ them are, in their opinions. Some of our best authorities claim great relief from the use of cold applications, while others favor the employment of hot and emollient fomentations. Hog's lard, and simple molasses have their advocates ; buckwheat and rye meal, mercurial ointment, oxide of zinc, kreosote, nitrate of silver, tinct: iodine, and other agents of different names and properties, are pressed into service with equal claims of restorative power. So far as the experience and

observation of your present reporters will justify the expression of their opinion, there are no substances in the whole range of the *materia medica*, of equal value in this complaint, with the nitrate of silver, and the compound tincture of iodine. Probably the weight of recorded testimony is on the side of the former agent, although the latter has been fairly tried, and proved by ample experience to be equally serviceable.

Whether erysipelas requires any local treatment at all, is a question in the minds of many judicious and skilful practitioners that is yet unsettled. The disease is asserted to be dependent upon a morbid condition of the blood, and the constitutional injury arising from this change, it is said can only be repaired by means that are calculated to improve the vital fluid, or to secure the abstraction of a portion of it from the body: but whatever may be the pathological condition of the blood, experience proves most conclusively that sedative external remedies, exercise a controlling power over the cuticular inflammation, which cannot be exerted without them.

The cutaneous disease is occasionally the only morbid change which is exhibited by post mortem examinations, and there is much reason to believe that the property of contagion, which belongs to the malady, resides in the inflamed and often abraded surface. When the inflammation is seen involving the face, and head, rapidly insinuating itself toward the inlets of the brain, with sacs containing purulent matter presenting themselves upon the inflamed surface, and threatening to attack the sensorium, the question is one of the most solemn import whether we are justifiable in not employing some direct means for its arrest. To cure disease is our high calling. If we cannot cure, we are bound to guard as far as we can, those portions of the citadel that are not the seat of disorder, from being overtaken and destroyed. The simultaneous occurrence of Erysipelas and Puerperal Peritonitis has often been a subject of interesting

and useful enquiry among physicians. There has been no puerperal epidemic disease within the knowledge of your committee, but as evidence of there being great danger of communicating to parturient females, the contagious virus of erysipelas it may be stated that while recently visiting a patient with this disease, and engaged in making applications to the inflamed part, the writer was called to wait upon a female in labor. Under the apprehension that there might be some danger of communicating the disease, the examinations per vaginum were as few and as rapid as circumstances would justify; but the case being very tedious, and requiring the employment of forceps, the hands were necessarily brought into contact with the mucus coat of the vagina, and though they had been thoroughly washed, the patient barely escaped with her life, from an attack of puerperal fever, attended with an offensive discharge from the uterus, and an acrid secretion from the vaginal walls. The infant, at the age of about two weeks, was seized with a severe attack of erysipelas, invading the head and shoulders, and extending down the back. The integuments became extremely indurated, the skin assumed a dark livid hue, and the little sufferer died on the third day, in a state of coma. A similar case occurred not long since in the practice of another member of your committee, and the infant died with erysipelas about the nates between the third and fourth week.

INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATISM.

Within the memory of many of our oldest citizens there has not been so extensive a prevalence of inflammatory rheumatism as has recently visited our section, and although it has been very general, there has been no unusual difficulty in its management. The majority of sufferers from it have been persons of a delicate habit, mostly females. The patients would not generally bear the loss of blood; even leeching, in many instances, was contra-indicated by the state of the pulse, and general system. Small doses of Dover's

powder, continued at short intervals through the day, with quinino' and opium in large doses at night, and a blue pill occasionally, with towels wrung out of cold water, applied to the inflamed and painful joint, proved to be the most successful practice. In some instances, the external application of chloroform afforded relief to the pain. Upon its first coming in contact with the surface, it invariably produced a sense of extreme heat, and in one case noticed by the writer, caused vesication. The burning generally subsided after a few minutes, and was again excited by a renewal of the remedy.

DIARRHŒA.

There exists at present a decided tendency to cramps, cholic, diarrhoea, &c., &c. The cases that have been presented for treatment have so far proved tractable, though in a few instances, it has been difficult to overcome the laxity of the bowels.

ETHERIZATION.

We would commend to the profession the subject of etherization in child-birth, as worthy of more consideration than we believe it has received by the physicians of our State. The trials with it have been few, so far as our knowledge extends, but we have heard of no untoward result following its use, where it has been judiciously applied. The writer has frequently seen the pangs of parturition assuaged under its influence, and has experienced the satisfaction of knowing that no evil consequences have grown out of its employment in his hands. There is not a female who has taken it in his practice, who does not assert that it was attended with no unpleasant feelings, and who has not expressed her gratitude for its administration, accompanied with the declaration that she will never again bear a child without it. We would not urge the profession to adopt the practice, unless upon trial, it is found to be safe. We believe it will. And we take pleasure in making the announcement that its claims

to favorable notice are becoming stronger and stronger, the more it is known. What can be more grateful to the feelings of the accoucheur than to be able to arm himself with the means of rendering easy the severest trial of human nature? of relieving the sufferings of the parturient female in her agonizing throes to become a mother. True, it is a natural effort, the pains are not the pains of disease, they are a pure physiological development of a natural law; but the achievements of science in her upward and onward advancement ought not to be arrested by such an objection. How justly proud does the physician feel, of the noble science to which he is indebted for his skill, when called to the bedside of a female, struggling with these natural efforts and unable to accomplish the delivery without assistance, when, discovering the dystocia, he is able to correct a mal-position by the mere touch of his finger, or to deliver a living child by timely instrumental aid! How much more ought he to honor the discoveries of science when able to do all this without the knowledge of suffering on the part of his patient! We hope this anesthetic agent will not be abandoned without a fair trial.

QUACKERY.

We have to congratulate the profession upon an evident decline of quackery in this section of the state. Public confidence has so often been abused, and health and life so often put in peril by the rash and unskilful charlatan, that the people are already awakened to the necessity of a sound medical education, as the only basis of safe practice, and there is no doubt that we will be sustained by the public voice in any proper effort to elevate the standard of qualifications, and to enforce the wholesome regulations of law, in support of scientific medicine. We are hopeful in the belief, as the medical profession in New Jersey has already wielded an influence for good upon the people, that we still retain the power to do more good; and we would earnestly recom-

mend the appointment of a committee to petition the ensuing legislature on behalf of this society, for a law making it obligatory upon every vender of secret or patent medicines within our limits, to have placed upon the bottle or package containing it, a label, with the names of the ingredients of which it is composed, and the proportions in which they are combined, and that said label shall be printed in plain English letters. We believe that the practice of country store-keepers trading in pills and nostrums that are lauded as certain cures for every variety of disease, is inimical to the public health, and that the influence of this society should be exerted against it: and for druggists, whose relations to the medical profession should be of the most fraternal character, to engage in the business of vending quack medicines, and to promote their sale by the authority of their supposed superior knowledge, is, as we believe, injurious to the welfare of the people, and ought to be discountenanced by the medical profession and an enlightened public. To secure this end, we should not cease to testify on all suitable occasions against the practice.

LICENSING.

The proposition made to this society from the district society of Salem county, and referred to the Standing Committee, has claimed their deliberate attention. It contemplates an entire revolution in the system of examining candidates for license, by establishing three district boards of censors for the whole state, instead of the present plan of county examiners. Considerable pains have been taken to ascertain the state of feeling in the profession with reference to the proposed change, by correspondence and otherwise. And it has been found that a diversity of opinion exists in different sections of the state, some being desirous of making a change, while others believe the present system is most likely to secure a continued interest in this society, and a larger number of licentiates; and the majority of the committee

being of opinion that the present system does not answer the expectations of its friends—the proposition is recommended to the consideration of the society for its action.

NEW JERSEY MEDICAL REPORTER.

In conclusion, we ask the attention of the society to the condition of the New Jersey Medical Reporter. It is now near the close of the second year of its existence. It has been published, and edited at considerable personal sacrifice of labor and money, but it has striven to maintain a character for the profession of New Jersey, which we are sure it deserves. It has been the organ of this society so far as individual enterprise could make it so. Our proceedings have been faithfully sent to distant members of the profession who are unable to attend these meetings. It has gone on the same errand to other states in the Union, wherever it could meet with a cotemporary, and has told of New Jersey physicians, and of our time-honored society. We trust it has been of service to the cause to which it has been devoted, and we hope it may not be allowed to expire for want of needful stimuli. It has been regularly sent to more than two hundred and fifty physicians in New Jersey, and can be sustained readily by the subscription list, provided punctuality is observed in the payment of the amount of the subscription.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOSEPH PARRISH,
BENJAMIN H. STRATTON,
ZACHARIAH READ. } Standing Committee.

REPORT FROM THE EASTERN DISTRICT.

BY W. MORTIMER BROWN, M. D.

Your reporter would respectfully transmit to the Standing Committee a few of the prominent features in the medical history of the district, for the past year, and though we have

not during that time been visited by any new and undescribed epidemic, spreading terror and dismay through the community, yet some of those which have come within the sphere of our observation, have presented new and interesting features, worthy of the attention of the profession.

ERYSIPelas.

In the early part of last summer, erysipelas which had been with us during the winter, still continued its visits, frequently attacking with great severity, and sometimes giving evidence of its contagious character. Dr. Marsh, of Passaic, mentions a case where the disease was evidently communicated to a patient in child-bed, by a physician attending; was marked by a nervous irritable state of the system, and muttering delirium, and terminated suddenly in death. Persons under treatment for wounds of any kind seemed to be especially liable to an attack, but still it was not confined to such, and many were seized who had no visible predisposing cause.

It sometimes was seated in the throat in adults, and in the genitals in children, and then was unusually severe.

The same disease is again making its appearance in the vicinity of Newark, and is no less severe than it was last year. The ordinary treatment by antiphlogistics in the first stage, and tonics when the pulse begins to flag, with the use of blisters when the inflammation could be circumscribed by them, and the application of mercurial ointment to the inflamed surface, has generally been successful in mild cases, but in many instances the disease has rushed forward with such impetuosity as to bid defiance to all our efforts to obstruct its progress.

INTERMITTENT FEVER.

There has been throughout the year, a marked tendency to the asthenic form in all diseases, and to partake of the intermittent character. Cases of regular intermittent fever have occurred in localities in the borders of Passaic and Sus-

sex, where they have never been noticed before, while in some localities in Essex, every house would furnish cases, and in some, not an individual would escape. The disease has seldom been complicated by those visceral obstructions which in more southern latitudes render intermittent so intractable, and tonics in large doses have almost invariably put a stop to it. The tendency to return has been so great as to render it necessary to continue the treatment for several weeks, to prevent relapses.

DYSENTERY.

During the latter part of summer, dysentery of an obstinate character was often met with; the tendency to prostration manifesting itself early in the progress of the disease, so as to contra-indicate any thing like depletion.

Cathartics seemed to be always injurious, and even the mildest laxatives were not safe. So irritable were the bowels, that the small doses of neutral salts recommended by Heberden, could not be borne; calomel in large doses only aggravated the disease, and even the saline ingredient in Dover's powder was thought by some to be too stimulating. Hydrargyrum cum creta, or calomel in small doses, with opium or morphine, were usually successful.

Suppositories of opium were sometimes beneficial in cases where much tenesmus was present, and sulphate of zinc was useful in chronic cases, or those relapsing frequently. When this plan of treatment was pursued, the tenderness of the gums was usually the signal of the decline of the disease, though some cases required the continuance of opiates for a few days longer. When proper attention had been paid to diet, a fatal termination very seldom occurred after the gums were touched by the mercury, though in some cases the system appeared to resist the power of frequently repeated doses, for a long time. A slight irregularity of diet was often sufficient to provoke a return of the disease, long after reco-

very, and these relapses were usually more difficult to manage than the original attack.

SMALL POX AND VACCINATION.

The small pox and varioloid have prevailed extensively in Essex county, and many cases have occurred in Passaic and other parts of the district; the latter form of the disease proving very severe, and scarcely to be distinguished from the unmodified form, the pustules becoming confluent, and leaving deep scars; the attending fever being also quite high and attended with much delirium. The frequent occurrence of modified small pox of late years, leads us to enquire whether the protective power of vaccination may not be diminished by distance from its original source. That amidst all the accidents to which the virus is exposed in its transmission through so many, some deterioration should take place, is not to be wondered at: and it is evident that this is the case, or that the effects of vaccination fade from the system, since we find varioloid occurring so much more frequently of late years than heretofore. Believing that the protective power of vaccination becomes dissipated in the lapse of years, some have recommended and practiced re-vaccination, and the success of their efforts render further and more extended trials desirable to settle the question as to the propriety of practicing it in all cases after a certain period.

At the time of the introduction of vaccination, there were frequent attempts made to re-vaccinate, but usually in vain, and at that time varioloid was unheard of; but now the cases in which re-vaccination succeeds are numerous and increasing, and we may conclude with much reason, that in these cases exposure to the exciting cause was only necessary to bring on an attack of varioloid. In 1833, over 48,000 were re-vaccinated in Prussia, and only 15,000 were affected by it, being less than one third, while in 1837 out of 47,000, about 21,000 produced regular pustules, or nearly

one half. This was a striking change, and it did not take place suddenly, but exhibited a regular increase from year to year. The proportion of successful cases is by some placed much lower, some making it as low as one in 8 or 10. As far as my own experience goes, when the interval between the vaccinations exceeds 9 or 10 years, about one half of the cases re-vaccinated will have the regular vaccine pustule varying only in respect to the time of maturation, this being in many cases much shortened: if only those be counted in which the pustule goes through its several stages in the time of a perfect vaccination, not more than one in eight probably can be considered successful.

An attention to this distinction may help to reconcile the seeming contrariety in the reports of different observers, some counting every case in which a pustule was produced; others setting aside all which went through their course in less than the regular time. If we allow even the lowest estimate to be correct, we must admit that a large number of the community are in danger of an attack of varioloid notwithstanding vaccination, for otherwise the repetition of the operation would prove inoperative. That re-vaccination has the power greatly to diminish the liability to the disease, is becoming more and more evident in proportion to the light thrown on the subject. I have made considerable inquiry of our members in this district, as to varioloid occurring soon after vaccination, either original or repeated, and find the general opinion to be that it rarely occurs within ten years. Several cases have been furnished me, where the disease made its appearance while the vaccine pustule was still on the arm, but here it was evident that the seeds of the disease were in the system previous to the vaccination, and this latter served but to modify in some measure, the disease it could not resist. With the exception of these cases, but two or three instances have been brought to my knowledge, where the interval was not extended to several years. Re-vaccination has however been practiced in this

section of our state, to too limited an extent to furnish many data from which to draw conclusions, but in some of the German states, and especially in their large standing armies, re-vaccination with frequently renewed virus has been so successful as almost to banish variolous diseases from their midst.

If varioloid shall continue to spread as it has here for several years past, the confidence of the community in vaccination as a preventive, will be lost to such a degree as to lead to its desertion, for few will be willing to submit to it, unless they can feel that it is an effectual and a perpetual protection.

That this is an incorrect view of the case is evident, for if it were only sufficiently powerful to ward off such a loathsome disease as small pox once out of ten times, it would be the part of wisdom to gain so much; but it is far more powerful than this. Multitudes are daily exposed to this disease, with no protection but a single vaccination, yet the greater portion are unaffected by it, and when any effect is produced, the disease is much milder than it would otherwise have been; a fatal case being a very rare occurrence, but one such having come to my knowledge the past year. In this case the marks of the vaccination were seen on the arm, but no certain information was obtained as to the regularity of the pustule in its several stages.

Yet notwithstanding this degree of security to be derived from a single vaccination, if we find severe cases of varioloid frequently occurring, it is our duty to recommend the repetition of the operation as often as may be necessary, and to endeavor to obtain the virus more directly from its original locality, that we may be able in contending with our powerful foe, to make use of the same weapons which proved so successful in the hands of Jenner. That this would afford an almost complete protection, may be seen in those places where it has been most fully adopted, and the practice of inoculating with small pox even, would promise

no more, for even this fails to protect in all cases. I have had a case within a few weeks, of severe varioloid in an aged person who was inoculated for small pox when young, and Dr. Marsh, of Paterson, gives an instance in an adult, which proved to be a very severe one, though the individual had the natural small pox in youth.

In relation to the treatment, nothing novel will be added. Antiphlogistic, cool air, cleanliness, and strict diet, seem to answer best, but with all our remedies, the unmodified form is a dangerous disease, and prevention is far better than cure, even when that is possible.

INFLUENZA.

An influenza prevailed in our district for a short time during the winter, which had some resemblance to that of 1832, and fears were felt that this, like that, should be the herald of the approach of cholera asphyxia.

The sudden seizure, the harrassing cough, the severe pains in the neck, eye, or bowels, with the feeble pulse, pointed out their identity, and in aged or debilitated persons indicated danger, but in the young and vigorous, a few of Dover's powders would put a period to the disease. The epidemic was of short duration.

ŒDEMA OF THE GLOTTIS.

A case of œdema of the glottis and uvula has been communicated by Dr. Dougherty, of this city. Extreme dyspnoea was the prominent symptom in the case. Scarifications and the application of nitrate of silver gave temporary relief, and bronchotomy was urged as the only means of permanent benefit, but it was obstinately refused until it was too late.

Several cases of erysipelas of the throat and face, have in my practice been complicated with great œdema, rendering respiration and deglutition painful, and finally impossible. These have been attended with great prostration of the system, resisting the most powerful tonics, vegetable and mineral.

MONSTROSITY.

A case of monstrosity has been furnished by Dr. Ward, of this city. In addition to a spina-bifida, there was an opening through the abdominal wall below the umbilicus, of several inches extent, through which a large mass of the small intestines protruded, covered only by the peritoneal coat. The patella of one leg was also wanting, and the leg was firmly flexed on the thigh.

Newark, April, 1849.

REPORT FROM THE MIDDLE DISTRICT,

By JOHN H. PHILLIPS, M. D.

Having been honored by the society in the appointment of reporter for the Middle District, it becomes my duty in accordance with the by-laws of the society, to furnish you that information concerning the health and diseases, as well as the irregularities, neglect and contempt of the laws, rules, and regulations of the society, in the district, that the circumstances under which I have acted enable me to collect.

In entering upon the duties of my appointment as reporter, I communicated personally with a number of my professional brethren, requesting them to furnish me with such information concerning the health, diseases, &c., of their respective localities, as would enable me at the close of the year, to render a full, complete, and satisfactory report upon the various duties required by the by-laws of the society, but not having been favored with any communications from them on these subjects, I am compelled to rely chiefly upon my own limited personal observations; this of course cannot supply for the whole district, that amount of information and accuracy of detail, so essential to a full and complete understanding of the subject.

The health of the inhabitants of this district so far as I have been able to ascertain from practitioners residing there-

in, as well as from personal observation, has been generally good ; no contagious or infectious disease has prevailed to any great extent, and at no former period has there been greater immunity from the diseases which ordinarily prevail, especially during the summer season.

CATARRH.

The winter however, was characterized in our own vicinity by catarrhal and bronchial affections of great severity, but presenting in other respects no marked peculiarities, rarely terminating fatally, and yielding to the usual remedies : the plan of treatment most successful was topical bleeding, mercurial purgatives, with small doses of calomel and tartarized antimony in the earlier stages, and moderately tonic and stimulating expectorants in the latter.

FEVERS.

In the autumn, intermittent and remittent fevers prevailed to a small extent in some localities, not differing however from the usual forms of these diseases, and yielding to the usual remedies ; indeed, this form of disease which but a few years since so generally prevailed in this region during the autumnal season, is now rarely met with.

NEW DISCOVERIES.

In reference to the new discoveries in medicine, and new remedies, I can say but little ; ether and cloroform, the most important articles of this class which have attracted so large a share of public as well as professional attention, have not so far as I can learn, been used to but a very limited extent ; but so far as these agents have been employed, the results were generally favorable to their success.

In connection with this subject it may be proper to remark, that having noticed in the "Medical Reporter" of January last, the recommendation by Dr. Fahnestock, of Pittsburg, in favor of kreosote in erysipelas of the face, I

was induced from the strong recommendation there given, to employ it in two cases of that disease which recently fell under my care, in both of which it seemed to exert a prompt and decided influence in arresting the progress of the disease, and from the favorable result in these cases, I think it is an agent well deserving a more full and extensive trial by those who may have occasion to treat this formidable, and too often fatal disease.

ILLEGAL PRACTITIONERS.

In conclusion, I am compelled to inform you (though with mortification and regret) that in this district may be found a goodly number of illegal practitioners, some of whom claim to occupy distinguished positions as members of the profession, yet manifesting a contempt and disregard for those laws, which, while they adorn the statute book, it is not only the duty of the physician, but every good citizen, to honor and obey. Yet there is cause of rejoicing that throughout the district there is felt an increased interest in the subject of medical education: district societies are springing up, and the intelligent and honorable members of the profession are actively engaged in promoting its interests, with an industry and zeal exhibited at no former period; and the consequence is, the public mind is beginning to feel and properly appreciate the importance of a subject upon which their health, happiness, and prosperity so intimately depends; nor is this all, the mists of ignorance and empiricism are fast disappearing before the illuminating rays of science and truth, while the dignity of the profession, and the standard of medical acquirements, are being elevated to that position which the advancing cause of science requires a liberal and enlightened physician should occupy.

Pennington, May 4, 1849.

REPORT FROM THE WESTERN DISTRICT.

BY FRANKLIN GAUNTY, M. D.

In accordance with the By-Laws of the State Medical Society, the reporter for this District, presents the following, for the information of the Standing Committee :

Whilst thousands of our transatlantic, as well as numbers of the inhabitants of our sister-states, have been swept from this stage of action by that desolating and wide-spreading epidemic—cholera, we have thus far, much cause for thankfulness, that this disease has been mercifully withheld from us: may its approach find us prepared to meet its insidious attack, and ready, skilfully to combat with every assault made upon our citizens.

The health of this District has been generally good, so far as I am capable of judging, not having been favored with communications from any member of the profession of a neighboring county, and very few from physicians of my own. The necessity of having a reporter for each county is obvious.

This report, must therefore consist of a brief history of a few of the most frequent diseases, that the physicians of this county have been called upon to relieve, none of which may be considered strictly epidemic.

MEASLES.

During the spring of 1848 measles prevailed to considerable extent. The visitation was not a very severe one however, especially at this time, for the disease had assumed a much milder form than during the preceding winter, not being accompanied by such severe pneumonic symptoms; the disease promptly yielded to the remedies usually resorted to in such cases, viz: mild mercurial purgatives, expectorants, anti-phlogistics, &c. The mild weather with which we were

soon favored, added much to the efficacy of our treatment, and the speedy convalescence of the patients.

ROSEOLA.

Roseola may be mentioned among the prevalent diseases of spring, especially among adults, who generally considered it a second attack of measles, from which it differed considerably.

DYSENTERY.

The summer brought with it dysentery which prevailed among children, as well as adults, from very slight exciting causes. This disease frequently assumed a typhoid character, and required a cautiously stimulating treatment, preceded by mild purgatives to remove the scybala and other irritants from the alimentary canal, with opium, camphor, and sometimes blisters in the later stages; the diet consisted principally of bland emulcent drinks.

FEVERS.

In the latter part of summer and early in autumn, intermittent and bilious fevers made their annual visitation among us; and prevailed to considerable extent along the shores of the river, its tributary streams and marshy districts. These fevers were of easy management when medical aid was early called, and yielded to the usual treatment; blood-letting was seldom thought advisable, although generally satisfactory when employed in the commencement of the attack; purgatives, emetics, the preparations of bark and opium judiciously administered, generally produced the desired effect, the patient seldom having a relapse when proper precautions were observed.

RHEUMATISM.

During the winter, which was an unusually severe one, acute rheumatism prevailed among all classes and almost all ages without regard to sex; the visitation was not, however, an unusually severe one, nor did it vary in any manner from

its usual course. This, also, was successfully treated, and of tolerably easy management. The usual antiphlogistic treatment, accompanied by blood-letting, where the vigor of the patient, and disease, seemed to require it; the latter did not always afford much relief. The following plan of treatment was generally followed by success in the hands of a practitioner, who had no small number of that class of patients, viz: the bowels kept open by saline cathartics, effervescent draughts during the day, with opium and quinine in full doses at night; the latter remedy was given more freely when metastasis threatened; it did not perceptibly augment the excitement, and was found proper in almost every case; a speedy convalescence followed. Other members of the profession were equally successful without the use of quinine, the disease usually passing off in a fortnight, leaving the patient in tolerably good health.

CYNANCHE TONSILARIS.

Cynanche Tonsilaris was also very prevalent during the cold weather, amounting almost to an epidemic. The inflammation of the tonsils frequently showed a disposition to extend itself over the mucous membrane covering the roof of the mouth, pharynx, larynx, trachea, bronchial tubes, &c., terminating in typhoid pneumonia. These symptoms were successfully combatted and generally speedily removed by purgatives and diaphoretics, but in severe cases blood-letting was inadmissible; counter irritants to the back of the neck and throat, with the frequent use of detergent gargles; one composed of lime-water has been used with signal success in several instances.

ERYSIPelas.

A number of cases of erysipelas have come under the notice of the physicians of this district, among which were several patients having regular attacks of the disease about the head, face, and neck, which were easily controlled and quickly cured, by keeping the bowels open by the use of

mercurial and saline cathartics and alteratives, with topical applications of a solution of nitrate of silver of sufficient strength to cauterize the parts; other cases were successfully treated by penciling the affected part with the tincture of iodine; kreosote was also found a very efficient remedy as a topical agent, assisted by constitutional remedies.

SMALL POX.

That direful disease which deals death and distress among thousands, has been providentially withheld from our immediate vicinity, one case only having occurred in our city, which did not come under the immediate notice of your reporter; I regret that the same cannot be said of the whole district, numerous cases having fallen under the charge of the physicians of our neighboring townships; a large proportion of the cases however, assumed the variolous type and recovered quickly, compared with those who were so unfortunate as never to have been vaccinated; among these the disease assumed the most malignant form, terminating fatally in numerous instances; and had it not been for the indefatigable exertions of the medical brethren of that section, it might have spread to an alarming extent. Vaccination, that valuable preventative, they found had been too much neglected, especially by the poorer classes.

The physicians of this district have expressed a desire for legislation on this point, viz: vaccination among the poorer classes, at the expense of the state, to be done and certified to by physicians duly licensed to practice in this state. Your reporter trusts that the standing committee will give this matter due consideration.

ETHERIZATION.

In regard to new remedies, your reporter will mention but one, that has been repeatedly and successfully used in this district, and is considered worthy of a trial, at least by every member of the profession, when a suitable opportunity shall offer. Etherization in difficult or protracted labor,

has given general satisfaction both to patients and practitioners; it is given by wetting the corner of a napkin with a mixture of equal parts of chloroform and ether, then allowing the patient to inhale the vapor, holding the cloth about an inch from the nostrils, giving the patient an opportunity of inhaling a small proportion of atmospheric air: for further particulars I refer you to the New Jersey Medical Reporter for April.

Burlington, May, 1849.

REPORT OF DELEGATES TO NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The delegates appointed at the last annual meeting of the Medical Society of the State of New Jersey, to attend the meeting of the American Medical Association, at Boston, on the first Tuesday in May, 1849, ask leave to report, that they were most agreeably surprised, and have much satisfaction in stating that soon after their arrival in Boston, they were joined by a delegation from New Jersey, composed of Dr. S. H. Pennington, the President, and Dr. Joseph Fithian, the second Vice-President of the Medical Society of the State of New Jersey, together with Dr. E. Fithian, of Cumberland, Dr. C. Garrison, of Gloucester, Dr. C. Hendry, of Camden, Dr. Hunt, of Hunterdon, Dr. H. P. Green, and Dr. J. W. Canfield, of Morris, Dr. W. Nichols, of Essex, and Dr. Rogers, of Passaic, all members of district medical societies in this state.

On the presentation and acceptance of the credentials of the delegates, they were severally presented with cards of membership to the American Medical Association, entitling them to gratuitous admission to the Massachusetts General Hospital, the Medical College, Insane Asylum, Blind Asylum, Hall for the Society for Medical Improvement, Eye

and Ear Infirmary, and all other institutions of public interest, public buildings and places, the monuments of antiquity and art ; together with cards of invitation from Drs. Warren, Bigelow, Homans, and Hayward, for evening visits and refreshments ; and a card of invitation from the Massachusetts State Medical Society, to an evening collation.

The American Medical Association, on assembling at the Hall prepared for them, were immediately addressed by Dr. Warren in behalf of the medical profession of Massachusetts, and welcomed in a very feeling manner, with the most cordial reception.

On the part of our medical brethren at Boston, during our stay with them, it seemed that nothing had been left undone to render the visit of the delegations composing the association, cheering, and most agreeably entertaining both to mind and body ; we cannot in terms sufficiently expressive of our feelings, do justice to the occasion, and can only say, the like of it, in a manifestation of a warm cordiality of feeling, in the most polite attention and various entertainments afforded us on their part, we certainly have never seen surpassed, if equalled.

The members of the Association in one of the intervals from business, by invitation, assembled at the hospital and witnessed four surgical operations in succession, performed while the patients were severally under the influence of what was called chloric ether, and in one case, of ether. The ease and apparent freedom from all pain in the subjects operated upon, throughout the whole scene, the skill and expedition shown by Drs. Warren and son, in the performance of their surgical duties, could not be otherwise than highly gratifying and instructive to the audience assembled, and serves still further to establish the beneficial importance of the use of these agents, in banishing pain from the sufferer, particularly when used judiciously by skilful hands, and in cases where humanity points them out as necessary.

The American Medical Association, composed of delegates from twenty-two States of the Union, and numbering over four hundred members, from state and county medical societies, medical colleges, and other institutions connected with our profession in different parts of the United States, when assembled and called to order, was opened by an appropriate and very excellent address from their President, Dr. Stephens, of New York, after which, in due order, the nominating committee of one member from each state was appointed, for selecting officers to recommend for the association to elect for the ensuing year; then in their order, the reports of the several standing committees of the past year were read; all distinguished by great research, learning, and much labor of detail, instructive and very interesting to the association. It may perhaps be thought uncourteous for your delegates to select out of any of these reports by way of preference, yet without wishing to detract from the merits of any, they cannot refrain from calling your attention to the very able reports of Dr. N. R. Smith, of Maryland, on surgery, and Dr. C. R. Gilman, of New York, on obstetrics. These two reports embrace some new points of interest, such as (in surgery) are deemed improvements, including new apparatus in fractures, and a new instrument used in the operation of lithotomy.

In obstetrics, among other things, full details respecting the use of speculums in detecting diseased conditions of the os-uteri, and ample details on the use of etherization in parturition. But to enter more minutely into detail, if time and opportunity of reading the reports had permitted, will, we presume to say, hardly be expected at this time, inasmuch as in a very short time it is believed, the whole proceedings and reports of the association will be printed and put in circulation for the use of the profession, by the committee on publication.

It may be asked, perhaps by some of the profession, and certainly will be asked by many of the enquiring public,

what good will be effected by this National Association? In answer briefly, first, one good has already resulted—an act of Congress has been passed and is in operation, to prevent at the Custom Houses, the importation of adulterated medicines. To the people at large this is an inestimable benefit, for they are most interested. To the medical profession, a great relief from the deceptions practised upon them in the sale of worthless drugs—failure in their action as remedies, lingering diseases, and more deaths to swell the bills of mortality, as consequences.

Second, By reports and communications from various sections of the Union, upon diseases which have appeared, especially epidemics, with important statements of our domestic and foreign medical literature of the past year, collected and embodied in useful form, for circulation.

Third, To increase thereby the stock of knowledge of the whole medical profession in our country, by a more general diffusion of information; but more especially by requiring a far better primary education of medical students than many of them have heretofore possessed, and a longer time of study, and improvement from attendance upon medical lectures and more clinical instruction, the better to fit them for the responsible employment of combatting with disease, and improving the general health of the community. In a word, to elevate the standard of medical education.

Will this last great object be finally accomplished by the American Medical Association? Time only can determine the question.

J. B. MUNN,
RICHARD M. COOPER. } *Delegates.*

May 7, 1849.

NITRATE OF SILVER AS A LOCAL APPLICATION IN ERYSIPelas, ILLUSTRATED BY TWO CASES.

Read before the District Medical Society for the county of Burlington, April, 1849. By ANDREWS E. BUDD, M. D.

Case 1. On the evening of January 7, 1849, I was called to see a young lady aged about seventeen. She stated that she had been much exposed for three or four days previously; having been sleighing most of the time, and the weather being very cold.

Her pulse was rapid, skin dry and hot, tongue coated, and her breathing somewhat oppressed. She complained of pain in her left cheek. On examination, there was discovered a red spot as large as a quarter of a dollar, which was thought to be, by the family, the result of cold, or a chilblain. I stated my fears of approaching erysipelas; still I could not account for the excessive amount of febrile action, and as there was no evidence of inflammation of any organ, I resolved to treat it as a case of fever, and wait the result.

The constitutional symptoms persisted, and the inflammation, which proved to be erysipelas, gradually spread over the left cheek and ear, and over a portion of the left side of the head.

This was the state of things on the fourth day from the attack. The pulse remained pretty steady at 120, though the fever was higher in the afternoon than in the morning. The local applications were in turn, sugar of lead-water, opium water, mercurial ointment, &c., but all did no good. A weak solution of the nitrate of silver was now used, but by the end of the sixth day from the attack, the disease had spread over the head and face completely. The condition of things seemed to be somewhat alarming, and by the advice of Dr. Spencer, the nitrate was made much stronger (vi gr. to 1 oz.) and applied every three hours, over the

whole of the face and forehead, and the mercurial ointment to be applied over the head: the patient was directed to take every four hours, a teaspoonful of a mixture; containing blue mass xx gr., calcined magnesia 1dr., water 2oz. This treatment was continued for four days, when the erysipelas ceased to spread, and the febrile symptoms entirely abated.

The caustic was applied until the soreness disappeared; of course the skin became black after the caustic produced its usual impression. The convalescence was speedy and complete. The skin resumed its healthy appearance in about two weeks from the last application of the remedy.

Case 2. On the morning of the twenty-fourth of March, another case of this most distressing disease presented. The onset was entirely different from the one just under consideration. There had been chilliness alternating with slight flashes of heat, for near a week previous to the appearance of the local disease, want of appetite, headache, &c.

The local affection commenced on the left side of the neck, and in three or four days reached the collar bone below, and spreading upwards covering the ear of the same side. Various local applications were used in turn, but the symptoms gradually increased. There was now much heat of the head, a roaring and ringing sensation in the ears, a heavily coated tongue with red edges, and fever.

Having full confidence in the nitrate of silver, I now commenced its use in the strength of xxgr. to 1oz., penciling the whole of the diseased surface every three hours, but the erysipelatous inflammation raged violently, and soon covered the whole of the scalp, the opposite ear and side of the neck, forehead and face. The fever raged highest in the morning. The blue mass, magnesia, and water, was given every four hours, as an alterative and with a view also of keeping the bowels open.

Owing to the severity of the disease it was thought necessary to shear the hair close to the head, that the caustic

might be applied over the whole scalp, as well as to the face and neck; in fact it was applied wherever the least trace of the disease could be discovered.

Ice was applied to the head, and cloths dipped in iced water kept constantly upon the forehead. I was extremely fearful that inflammation of the brain would ensue, so great was the heat in the head and so violent was the fever.

As soon as the caustic had time to cauterize the parts, the soreness and burning subsided, and the fever left as if by magic. Convalescence was speedy.

The cases just described differed materially in the character of the fever. The first commenced with a violent febrile action, and persisted steadily until the cure of the local affection was completed. In this case the fever was equally great when the local inflammation did not cover a space larger than a dollar, as when it covered the whole head and face. In the second there was but little fever at first, but as the local disease progressed, so increased the fever. The fever too was of a genuine remittent character. But do not understand me gentlemen, to suppose that nitrate of silver is applicable to all varieties of erysipelas. We would not recommend it in that form of the disease peculiar to infants, noticed by writers under the name of infantile erysipelas. It is fully described by Drs. Eberle, Condie, and others.

Neither would it be suitable in that variety called *Induratio telac cellularis*. I have seen one case of this affection; it occurred in a child two weeks old. A hardened condition of the cuticle, attended with heat, and a slight discoloration of the skin, of a yellowish hue, was discovered near the left breast. This condition of things rapidly spread over nearly the whole body—over one side of the neck, and over one arm. In three or four days from the attack, death came and relieved the little sufferer. The skin could not be pinched up, and the cellular texture seemed hard as stone. There was no change in the parts twelve hours after death; the body was solid, and the arm rigidly fixed as before death.

Gangrenous erysipelas is, I presume, another variety of this affection not calling for the use of this remedy. But we might no doubt, use it in phlegmonous erysipelas, and expect as much from its use in arresting the progress of the disease as from any other local application, provided it was commenced early.

The chief object of this paper is to advocate the use of the silver in the treatment of common erysipelas. I believe that it is a safe and efficacious means, and can be relied on as a prompt and almost certain means of cure. It should no doubt be used early and over the whole inflamed surface.

The use of this remedy is not at all new. It has been recommended by most writers on this affection, and many practitioners rely on it as their great means of cure. It should be applied often enough and strong enough to cauterize the parts.

Though many physicians (and I consider myself among the number) rely on this means of treatment, still it must be observed that other means are used by other practitioners, and by them very highly praised.

A solution of the sulphate of iron, formerly more used than now, was thought by some to be almost a specific. At present I believe there is but little confidence in this remedy.

Tincture of iodine and kreosote are among the most used at present ; the former is recommended by Dr. Wood. He advises that the inflammation should be penciled around its margin, extending over a portion of healthy skin. I presume there could be no impropriety in applying the iodine to the whole surface.

Were I to abandon the nitrate, the next in my esteem would be kreosote. This too, is put on with a camel's hair pencil, and without dilution ; covering the whole of the inflamed surface. It is said by those who use it, that it should turn the surface white soon after its application, and that if it fail to do so, the kreosote must be considered impure.

Some authors abandon all curative local means, considering the disease destined to run a definite period of time, and recommend that we should conduct the malady safely to its end. Among these is Dr. Watson, of London. He advises only, flannels wrung out of a decoction of poppyheads, to be applied continually, till relief is had. He states too, that flour applied by means of a dredging box, afforded much relief to the patients in the hospital under the care of the apothecary.

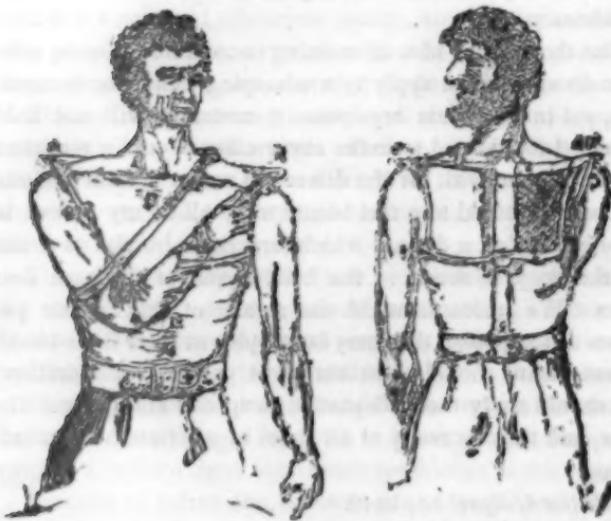
But though this idea of assisting to conduct a disease safely to its end, might apply to a whooping cough or to measles, yet in idiopathic erysipelas it certainly will not hold good. I feel bound to make every effort to cure a remittent fever, and not wait for the disease to run a certain definite period. I should also feel bound to do all in my power to cure erysipelas, a disease which sometimes hurries its victim off this stage of action in the brief space of three or four days. We profess to wield the means of ridding our patients of the poison that may be sapping at their life's blood. These means should enlist our most careful consideration; we should study their adaptation to special and general disease, and thus be ready at all times to alleviate human suffering.

Medford, April 16, 1849.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

REMARKS ON THE TREATMENT OF FRACTURE OF THE CLAVICLE.

By J. B. COLEMAN, M. D.



1. Arm sling.	5. Back stay.
2. Axilla pad.	6. Buckskin over scapula.
3. 3. Straps from brace to sling and pad.	7. Fulcrum pad on spine.
4. Waist belt.	8. 8. 8. Ends of brace for straps.

The difficulty experienced in keeping the ends of a fractured clavicle in position after reduction, arises from the smallness of the bone, its peculiar shape, and the free motions that are allowed to all the surrounding parts. In other fractures advantage can frequently be taken of the form of the bone to maintain position; a good fulcrum is offered for the splint, or whatever apparatus may be used, and by bandages, skilfully applied, the tendency to displacement may be resisted.

To hold the fractured extremities of a clavicle together, and preserve the proper axis of the bone, by any of the ordinary appliances seems impossible. The plan of bandaging the chest, and the arm to the chest, so as to confine a pad in the axilla, and maintain an extension of the clavicle, interferes so much with respiration, causes such intolerable pain, and is so ineffectual towards producing the desired result upon the bone, that it ought to be abandoned if a better plan can be discovered. Cross bandages, padded rings, and all devices that have not a permanent basis for extension and co-apтation, must fail in their design. The bone is to be drawn outward, backward, and upward, and not rotated on its axis ; otherwise there will result stiffness to the shoulder, occasioned by a strain on the sternal articulation. To answer these ends, after suffering myself from bandages, with a fractured clavicle, I contrived an apparatus that took its bearing on the dorsal vertebra, and made that long fixed point, its fulcrum. It was so arranged, that force applied to the ends of a lever at the sound shoulder, should produce the motions that were necessary to draw the fractured ends of the bone into true anatomical position, and hold them there, with but slight inconvenience to the patient. To do this, the apparatus was in the form of a shoulder brace, made of steel, and in outline nearly resembling the claviculae joined together at the back. The space occupied by each clavicle was left open, or in other words, the steel work surrounded each bone, so that it could move considerably within the included space. The space over the scapula of the injured side was covered with buckskin, tight as a drum head, so as to make resistance on that part, and prevent motion ; the other side was left open, to allow free motion of that shoulder. The central part of the back brace, had a long pad resting upon about eight inches of the spine. This prevented excoriation when force was applied. The extremity of the brace, on the side of the injury, projected farther laterally than the axilla, and above the deltoid pro-

jection of the shoulder. From this point a strap furnished with a buckle for adjustment, passed down through the head of a wedged shaped pad placed in the axilla. From the other side of the brace two ends projected, one above, corresponding with the first named, the other lower down, on a line with the bottom curves of the brace. From these ends, straps proceeded to attach to a sling in which the arm of the injured side was suspended. The strap from the upper end buckled to the upper part of the sling, near the wrist, and that from the lower end, to the inner and lower part of the sling, somewhere about the middle of the forearm.

The operation of this arrangement is obvious. We have here a lever of the simplest kind. The power, the weight of the arm of the affected side, drawing by the hand, as occasion may require, on the straps connected with the ends of the shoulder brace last described—the fulcrum, the backbone; the resistance, the shoulder of the broken clavicle. The direction of the force upon the injured part is upward, outward, and backward; the means of retaining the bone in position, simple, always at command, and not the least impediment to the mechanical movements of the ribs. The only point liable to excoriation is the axilla, and with this apparatus, less than any other.

To prevent the brace from sinking on the back, and to guard against any lateral swerving, a piece of wood or metal about two inches wide, is made, so as to have sufficient elasticity, is attached to the central piece, extending down the spine, and adapted to its curvatures. This reaches somewhere near the waist, and is secured by a belt passing around the body.

Fifteen days after the fracture of a collar bone, I applied this apparatus to myself. Up to this time the slightest jar caused a movement between the ends of the bone, and unless the bandages were intolerably tight; perfect adaptation seemed impossible. From this instant, position was easily maintained, no movement seemed to disturb the bone, I was

able to ride over rough roads without the least inconvenience, and when union took place there was what is extremely rare after these accidents, not the smallest distortion of outline. This experiment led me to use the apparatus in many other cases in which the results have been the same.

Trenton, June, 1849.

IODIDE OF POTASSIUM IN PUERPERAL METRITIS.

By J. R. LUDLOW, M. D.

Mrs. H., was brought to bed after a somewhat tedious labor, on the night of Saturday, November 18, 1848. She was the mother of three children, about twenty-eight years of age, and of a tolerably good constitution. Her previous labors had all of them, been difficult, probably owing to an unnatural projection of the promontory of the sacrum, causing an antero-posterior contraction of the superior strait, sufficient to impede very considerably, the progress of parturition; especially when the foetal head was large as in the present instance.

The secundines were removed entire, without the slightest difficulty; no undue hemorrhage took place, the uterus was well contracted, and she was left apparently in a comfortable condition.

On Sunday night, after a day of much excitement and noise, she was seized with a chill, pains in the abdomen, &c. I saw her on Monday, there was considerable pain in the region of the uterus, which was enlarged, hard, and exquisitely tender to the touch; pain in the head and back, shooting pains down the left thigh, pulse one hundred and thirty, but not tense: skin hot and dry, respiration hurried, tongue furred, with a tendency to dryness, thirst, anorexia and constipation, lochial discharge nearly suppressed, breasts flaccid, urine high colored and scanty. Prescribed hydrargyri chlor: mit: grs. x., ipecac: pulv: gr. i. m. to be given at once, and

followed in four hours by half an ounce of castor oil. A warm emollient poultice applied to the abdomen, diluents, and perfect quiet enjoined.

Tuesday. The bowels had been freely purged by the cathartic of yesterday, pains considerably relieved, pulse frequent, and *slightly tense*; in other respects little change. I drew from the arm, in the *recumbent position*, about six ounces of blood, when the pulse fell so rapidly that I desisted from fear of dangerous prostration. Prescribed hydrar: c. mit: 1 scruple, ipecac: vi gr m., ft: pul: in chart: sex dividend, Sig: One to be taken every four hours; poultice, &c., continued.

Wednesday. Pains very much relieved, less soreness of the abdomen, pulse one hundred and fifteen, tongue moist, less thirst, bowels free, lochia improved. Prescribed, Tr: digitalis, f ii dr. spt: eth: nit: f iii dr. m. Dose thirty drops every four hours, poultice continued.

Thursday. Pains increased, accompanied by an indescribable feeling of heat, and distress in the hypogastric region, tympanitic distension, with tenderness of the whole abdomen, slight nausea, pulse one hundred and twenty-five, and feeble; skin dry, thirst urgent, lochia scanty, dark colored, and offensive. Cupped the thighs and loins, applied a large epispastic over the region of the uterus, continued the poultice, ordered vaginal injections twice a day, and administered the following: ox: hydrarg: c. mit; ipecac: pul: aa grs. x. morphia sulph: grs. ii. m. ft: pul: in chts: decem: dividend: S. one to be given every three hours. Afternoon: In consultation with Dr. Van Derveer, of Somerville. Pains mitigated, pulse one hundred and twenty, thirst urgent, skin moist, mercurial impression slightly manifest in the gums. Prescribed, digitatis and nitre as on Wednesday, with five grains of the *iodide of potassium*, alternately every two hours, poultice and vaginal injection continued.

Friday. Pain slight, pulse one hundred and ten, skin moist, less thirst, bowels confined, lochia improved. Pre-

scribed half an ounce of ol: ricini, with a continuance of the medicine as yesterday. Dover's powder to be given after the operation of the oil.

Saturday. Considerable restlessness, the bowels had been purged three times by the last cathartic, stools dark and offensive, much tenderness of the abdomen, skin moist, pulse one hundred and five. Prescribed tr: opii: f oz. iv: tr: digitalis f 3 ii. m: dose thirty drops, alternated, with five grains of *iodide of potassium*, every two hours, poultice, &c., continued.

Sunday. Taken suddenly with a violent pain in the right side, with increased tenderness of the whole abdomen, pulse one hundred and two, skin moist, blisters discharge freely. Prescribed ol: ricini: f. ozss. ol: terebith: f i dr. m: to be followed after its operation by half a grain of opium: the other medicines to be resumed after the administration of the opium, as on yesterday.

Monday. Much relieved, pain and tenderness slight, alvine evacuations more natural in appearance, pulse eighty five, skin moist, slight secretion of milk. Prescription of Saturday continued.

Tuesday. Had rested well through the night, no pain, tenderness slight, pulse eighty-three, skin nearly natural, secretion of milk continues, lochia light colored, some appetite. Prescribed the medicine of yesterday in reduced doses.

Wednesday. Still convalescent, the opium, digitalis, and iodide of potassium, were gradually omitted, and the patient continued to improve for some time under the use of mild tonics. She was subsequently taken with chronic metritis, which yielded however, to the employment of the usual remedies, in combination with the iodide of potassium. She is now perfectly recovered.

REMARKS.

It may be supposed that too much stress has been laid upon the importance of the above case. And this supposi-

tion may be true, yet I will not conceal the fact, that it has been one of more than ordinary interest to me, and *that* not so much from its own intrinsic value as from its connection with other cases.

Puerperal metritis, or peritonitis, singly, or combined, is always a serious affection, whether sporadic or epidemic. But the latter more particularly has always been, and still continues of the most frightful import. Some may enjoy an almost uniform success in its treatment, according to their own reports, yet the records of medicine, and the histories of such epidemics, drawn by men of the first diagnostic powers, show results so widely different, that we are almost justified in suspecting many of these cases to be at most, very mild sporadic forms of the disease, or perhaps, little more than a congestion of the uterus.

The present case is the last of three, which have recently presented themselves, and the only one of which minutes were taken.

The first was one of a highly inflammatory nature, following an easy labor, was not seen until the second day of its course, and terminated rapidly in gangrene.

The second occurred shortly afterward, in a neighboring house, following a difficult labor, in which it became necessary to make use of instrumental assistance. Its commencement was mild, and seemed yielding at first to the ordinary antiphlogistic and revulsive treatment; a relapse however, took place about the fifth day, and terminated fatally without any very violent inflammatory symptoms. In the management of this case, I was assisted by Dr. McKissack, of Milestone. The case here reported, resembled very closely the second in its invasion and progress. It was equally slow and insidious in its course, and attended by a similar depressed state of the system.

The same *general* treatment was adopted in both; the one died, the other recovered. I do not by any means, assert that the difference in the result was attributable to the iodide

of potassium. Much more extensive trial would be necessary to establish so important a fact. But as it produced no manifest harm, and can readily be added to other means, is it not the duty, as well as the interest of the medical profession, to test its value by future experiments?

Certain it is, the steady and rapid progress of convalescence during its use, was to say the least, not a little surprising to myself, and I offer this case in addition to others already reported, showing the beneficial effects of the employment of this remedy. Nor does it appear unreasonable, to look for much good from its use in puerperal fever, when we consider the valuable powers of the remedy as demonstrated in the treatment of other diseases. Surely, it is capable of relieving periostitis, sometimes as if by magic, and of removing in an astonishing manner, various diseases of the fibrous tissues; it is not contradictory to common sense to suppose that it may exert some peculiar, perhaps I may say specific influence, over serous or uterine inflammations.

I will merely mention here, that beside the three cases spoken of, apparently depending upon epidemic or contagious influences, one other has presented itself during the season of a sporadic character, and arising from external violence combined with mental disquiet. This case recovered perfectly, under the use of the lancet and anodynes.

Neshanee, April 15, 1849.

NEW JERSEY MEDICAL REPORTER.

EDITORIAL.

BURLINGTON, SEVENTH MONTH, (JULY,) 1849.

Although we had not the pleasure of mingling in the deliberations of the meeting at Boston, we have felt a warm interest in its proceedings, and have obtained for our readers the following sketch of its doings, from a medical friend, who was present, and who from the origin of the movement, has been its active supporter.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

This body assembled in Boston at the usual time; four hundred and fifty delegates, representing twenty-two States, were present. The meeting was opened by a brief address from Dr. John C. Warren, on behalf of the Massachusetts State Medical Society, welcoming the delegates to the city of Boston: after which, Dr. A. H. Stevens, of New York, the President of the Association, delivered an address of a somewhat discursive character, though containing much that was interesting and appropriate to the occasion.

A committee was appointed to nominate officers, who reported the following gentlemen, who were thereupon unanimously elected, viz.; For President, Dr. John C. Warren, of Massachusetts; Vice-Presidents, Drs. J. P. Harrison, of Ohio; H. H. Maguire, of Virginia; Austin Flint, of New York, and R. S. Stewart, of Maryland. For Secretaries, Dr. Alfred Stille, of Pennsylvania; and J. Bowditch, of Massachusetts. For Treasurer, Isaac Hays, of Philadelphia. Several of these gentlemen had served the Association the previous year, and had strongly commended themselves to re-appoint-

ment, by the industry and ability with which they had performed their duties.

Then followed a brief address from the venerable Dr. Warren, after which the more important duties of the Association were commenced, by the reading of the Annual Reports. The first in order was the report on Practical Medicine, by Dr. Francis Condie, of Philadelphia, Chairman. This document embraced a history of the various epidemics which had prevailed throughout the United States within the past year, with an account of novel methods of treatment which had been suggested in particular diseases, &c.; and was drawn up with that accuracy and caution, for which the author is so favorably known. While the reading was proceeding, and just as the reporter was entering upon the interesting question of the origin and propagation of cholera, a motion was made to refer the report to the committee of publication, without farther consideration. The motive for this movement, was no doubt to save time, and was not intended as an evidence of a want of appreciation of the value of the report, but it appeared to us entirely out of place. We agree fully with the remarks of the editor of the *Medical Examiner*, of Philadelphia, that by "establishing a precedent of this kind, one great motive for thus assembling from the distant portions of the Union is abolished, viz: the interchange of sentiments and opinions, that arise from the discussion of the reports." At this stage of the proceedings, the farther reading was dispensed with, and an adjournment took place. On the following day, there was a renewal of the attempt to cut short the reports of committees, in a form which appeared to us still more objectionable. It was proposed by Dr. A. H. Stevens, of New York, that the reports of Standing Committees should be referred to the *Nominating Committee*, for the purpose of selecting therefrom, such portions as they might deem most interesting to read before the Association. This proposition elicited some decided remarks from Dr. Condie and others, upon

the impropriety of subjecting the labors of Standing Committees, selected with reference to their qualifications, to report upon certain medical subjects, to the censorship of a committee appointed for a temporary purpose, connected with the organization of the body; and were promptly voted down. The reading of the reports upon Surgery and Midwifery, by Dr. N. R. Smith, of Baltimore, and Dr. C. R. Gilman, of New York, occupied the remainder of this session.

The Surgical report was largely devoted to the subjects of anesthetic agents and the proper treatment of fractures. The experience of another year had, in the opinion of the committee, confirmed the great value of the discovery of ether and chloroform in the practice of Surgery; and numerous facts were presented, derived from American sources, showing the safety and utility of these agents. It was contended, that so far as statistics have been collected, it was believed that the ratio of mortality after severe and dangerous surgical operations, had been diminished, since their introduction, while thousands had obtained immunity from suffering through their influence. Fifteen cases of death from the use of chloroform were acknowledged, but considering the immense number of persons who had inhaled it, and the carelessness with which it is often administered, these results should not form an objection to its judicious administration. Dr. Smith prefers chloroform to ether, and stated a case in which he had administered this agent thirty four times to one patient, without any apparent injury.

The report on obstetrics was equally decided in favor of the use of anesthetics in the practice of Midwifery. While these may not be necessary in ordinary cases of speedy natural labor, they should not be withheld in all cases of difficult or protracted child-birth, or where instruments are resorted to. This ground was assumed, not only as a means of preventing pain, but as giving the patient an increased chance of recovery.

The preference was given in this report also, to chloroform, over ether, while it was admitted that the former was a more dangerous agent; although it is a remarkable fact that not a single fatal result is reported as having occurred as the effect of either of these articles, in the practice of Midwifery.

The report discussed several other topics of present interest, and was altogether an able and lucid paper; it was read in a clear and impressive manner, and was listened to with marked attention.

At the afternoon session, the report on Medical literature was read by Dr. J. P. Harrison, Chairman of the committee on that subject. This presented a detailed account of the various Medical periodicals in the United States, with a brief abstract of some of the more important papers published therein, during the year; of the new works published by American authors; of the foreign works edited by Americans, and of the Medical Libraries in the country. The report closed with a resolution to appoint a committee to devise proper measures to encourage and foster native talent, and thus to improve our national medical literature.

We consider this an important practical suggestion, and hope that a feasible plan will be devised to secure the object. As the matter now stands, there is no encouragement for our own writers to give to the world the results of their own experience, when a foreign re-print can be furnished at a less cost. The appointment of a Board of Publication, to aid authors in the production of their works, and to give them the sanction of the American Medical Association, was recommended in the report, and the consideration of this proposition was referred to a special committee, consisting of Drs. Horner, Condie and Hays, of Philadelphia, to report to the next annual meeting.

Dr. Taft, of New York, on behalf of Dr. F. Campbell Stewart, the Chairman, then presented the report on Medical Education. This was a lengthy and able document.

The committee reviewed the present condition of Medical Education in this country, and contrasted it with that of other countries, presenting an amount of information which we have not seen before in any treatise upon this question. The glaring defects in many of the medical institutions of the United States, were pointed out and the effects of competition in cheapening medical instruction, and in depreciating the standard of acquirements, were freely exposed. As a remedy for these evils, the report proposed the re-affirmation of the resolutions adopted at the last meeting of the Association, in regard to preliminary education, the extension of the lecture term, &c., with the additional measure of *the establishment of Boards of Examiners in each of the States of the Union*, who should establish a uniform standard of requirement, and should, as far as practicable, conduct their examinations upon a similar plan; and for the purpose of carrying this measure into effect, it was proposed to appoint a committee of seven to prepare a memorial and form of law adapted to the object, to be presented to the next Annual meeting.

This report was accepted, and referred to the committee of publication, and the resolutions taken up for discussion in committee of the whole. In connection with the report, Dr. John Ware, of the medical department of the Harvard University, presented a paper against the extension of the lecture term, beyond the period of four months, and in opposition to the recommendation of the Association upon that subject, which was also referred to the same committee. The remainder of the day was occupied with a spirited discussion upon the resolutions of the committee. Those in reference to preliminary education, were adopted with but little remark. A resolution affirming that "College clinics" were not recognized by the Association as substitutes for Hospital clinical instruction, elicited a warm discussion, and was finally adopted by a decided vote. The disadvantages of these public exhibitions, especially to patients subjected to

severe operations without adequate accommodations for subsequent treatment, and the injurious influence which they are believed to exercise in drawing the minds of the students off from the more severe and patient investigation of disease, at the bed side, were freely commented on. One gentleman dwelt particularly upon the effect of public clinics upon the emoluments of the private practitioner, by inducing patients to resort to them for gratuitous advice and operations, who were fully able to pay for such services at home.

The resolutions, recommending the appointment of a committee, to prepare a memorial and form of law, for the institution of independent Boards of examination, excited a short, but spirited debate. Upon this point, the Professors of Medical Colleges, and the profession at large, were evidently at issue: and there was, it appeared to us, an evident disposition upon the part of some gentlemen connected with the schools, to give the resolution a hasty and decided negative. An impatience of discussion upon the question, was exhibited not in keeping with the importance of the measure proposed, and with the deep and permanent influence which its adoption might exert upon the interests of the whole medical community. While subjects of minor importance were deliberately examined and passed upon, this was hastily dismissed from many minds, as utopian and impracticable.

We confess our disappointment at the action of the Association, in laying these resolutions upon the table, by a vote of 69 to 54; especially as the report of the committee of which they form a part, was an able argument in their favor, and was carefully prepared and signed by a committee, composed both of Professors and those not connected with teaching, and contemplated prospective, not immediate action.

We can only account for this vote, on the ground, that when it was taken, much time had been spent in considering other parts of the report, and hence, no opportunity was afforded for that free and candid discussion of the proposi-

tion, which, had it been given, we feel assured, would have commended it to more general regard.

That the medical men of the country feel deeply, the degradation to which our profession is exposed by the introduction into it of incompetent and unworthy men, and that they are earnestly engaged to remedy this evil, so far as their combined influence can effect the object, we have no doubt. Whether the establishment of independent Boards, sustained by the power of the laws is practicable, and if obtained, capable of placing an effectual check upon this evil, is a question which should be met and seriously examined.

The experience of New Jersey, for more than half a century past, is certainly favorable to such a measure; and this alone, independent of its abstract propriety, is sufficient to entitle it to careful consideration. It is greatly to be regretted that the supposed interest of corporate institutions, should interfere with a full and candid investigation of a proposition of such magnitude, and we sincerely hope that its future discussion will not be stifled by what has occurred. There is no question which can more appropriately claim the attention of State and Local Medical Societies, and through their agency it may be again brought distinctly before the National Association.

After disposing of the resolutions on Medical Education, the report of the special committee on public Hygiene, was presented and read by Dr. Isaac Parrish, of Philadelphia, a member of that committee, on behalf of the Chairman, Dr. James Wynne, of Baltimore, who was prevented from being present.

This was one of the most valuable and voluminous documents which was laid before the Association. It consisted of a general report by the Chairman, giving a view of the various subjects embraced in the enquiries of the committee, and of their importance, more especially with reference to the health of the large towns and cities of the United States.

The proper methods of laying out and building cities, the

means of supplying them with water and light, their cleansing, paving and sewerage; the importance of open squares, the evils of courts, lanes, and alleys, &c., were severally discussed. Special reports were also presented from the cities of Portland, Concord, Boston, Lowell, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Charleston, Louisville, and New Orleans; showing the sanitary condition of these cities, and their municipal regulations for the preservation of health; vital statistics, &c.

These reports were not read, but from an inspection of them, we feel authorized in promising the profession a fund of information upon this neglected branch of medical inquiry, more rich and copious than has ever before been brought together in this country.

Appended to this report was a paper upon the injurious effects of the use of tea and coffee as food among the laboring classes, by Professor Samuel Jackson, of Philadelphia. This subject was brought before the Association at its last meeting, by Dr. Jackson, and referred to the committee on Hygiene, who requested Dr. Jackson to write out his views upon it. Like other productions from the pen of that writer, it was able and ingenious, and being read by him, in his lively and animated style, added much to the interest of the meeting.

Next followed the Annual Report of the committee on indigenous Botany, which was passed over by a verbal statement of its contents, by Dr. N. S. Davis, of New York, the Chairman. Enough was stated to prove that the committee had not been idle during the past year, and we anticipate from the publication of their report, much additional information upon this uncultivated branch of medicine.

With this paper, the Annual reports were closed, and the Association proceeded to discuss other matters.

Cincinnati was fixed upon for the place of the next Annual meeting. A committee, consisting of Drs. Wood, Bond, of Baltimore, and Hays, of Philadelphia, were appointed to

memorialize Congress for an international copy-right law.

Dr. Evans, of Chicago, presented a resolution, recommending the system of concours, or public trials, as the proper method of selecting candidates for Professorships in Medical Colleges; which was handed up to the chair, put, and carried without debate. This movement was so rapid, that the mover was not aware that his resolution had passed, until he arose to make a speech in its favor, when he was cut short by the announcement of the fact! The surprise, pleasure, and disappointment evinced by turns in the countenance of our Western brother, as he took his seat, occasioned a burst of merriment which was perfectly irresistible, and which convulsed the whole assembly for some minutes, the Doctor himself heartily joining in the laugh.

A resolution was offered by Dr. Wood, of Philadelphia, to refer the subject of the propriety of prolonging the term of lecturing in our Medical Colleges, to six months, to a committee to write out a report of the facts and arguments in its favor, to appear in the forthcoming number of the Transactions, as a reply to the paper presented by the Medical Faculty of Harvard University, which had been referred to the committee of publication. After a short and animated debate, the resolution passed, and Professor Jackson, Drs. A. Stille, and J. L. Atlee, were appointed to that duty.

The views of the Association have already been expressed in favor of long sessions, and their adoption urged upon Medical Colleges, as a means of improving their courses of instruction, and of elevating the standard of requirement for a degree, which has been so much depreciated by the active competition between these institutions.

The University of Pennsylvania, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, promptly yielded to the voice of the profession as thus expressed, and extended their courses at the risk of injuring their private interests. In this however, they have been alone, and the argument of the Boston School, which now goes forth in the proceedings of

the Association, will, it is feared, encourage the disposition to a retrograde movement on the part of many of the inferior schools, whose interests lead them to a curtailment of the usual period of a four months course, rather than to an extension of it. It is proper therefore, that the views of the Association as formerly expressed, should be re-affirmed in the same volume which controverts them; that the profession may have both sides of the question before them.

Dr. Ware, of Boston, introduced a resolution, instructing the committee on Practical Medicine, to inquire into the expediency of adopting the English language exclusively, in writing prescriptions, which was referred. Upon this question a difference of opinion prevails among the members of the profession. We felt gratified by its being brought to the notice of the Association, and trust it will be thoroughly examined. Those who approve of the change, may congratulate themselves in having for an advocate a learned Professor of the renowned school of Harvard; who despite his classical attainments, looks upon practical utility in this case, as paramount to time honored custom.

Dr. Wood, who had been appointed a delegate to the British Association, on the part of the American body, presented a verbal report of his reception; of his being admitted there to the privileges of membership, and of the appreciation which our English brethren entertained for the attention paid them.

Dr. J. B. Johnson, of St. Louis, introduced resolutions recommending the establishment of Schools of Pharmacy, for the education of apothecaries, and against the practice of vending secret and patent medicines by druggists; which were referred to the committee on Medical Education.

A resolution by Dr. James Wood, of Pennsylvania, instructed the committee on medical sciences, to inquire into the expediency of establishing a Board to analyze the quack medicines and nostrums palmed upon the public, who should publish the result of their analyses in a public newspaper.

The standing committees for the coming year, were announced, and a variety of business of minor importance transacted, when the Association adjourned to meet at Cincinnati, next year.

The first meetings convened in the Hall of the Lowell Institute, a commodious building, situated in a central part of the city; and on the third day of its sessions, the Association was transferred to the State House, which had just been vacated by the legislature. This splendid building, situated on a hill which overlooks Boston Common, and from the top of which is one of the finest views of the city and harbor, which is any where to be found—was freely thrown open to the delegates, and every attention paid to their convenience and comfort.

On the part of the physicians of Boston, every opportunity was embraced to extend kindness and hospitality to their medical brethren, from distant parts. Many new acquaintances were formed, and old friendships cemented; congenial minds mingled with each other in free and unrestrained intercourse, and the largest assemblage of physicians which ever convened in America, separated with renewed feelings of interest for the advancement of the cause of Science and humanity, to which they have devoted their best energies.

THE LATE ANNUAL MEETING.

The official report of the proceedings of the late Annual Meeting, not being received in time to insert under their appropriate head, the following abstract from the minutes appears as editorial, though we are indebted to the Secretary of the society for it. We have not space to remark upon some important matters embraced in the minutes, but submit them as we have received them, making only a few alterations in the arrangement of the resolutions.

The Eighty-third Anniversary of the Medical Society of New Jersey, was held at New Brunswick, May 8th, 1849.

The President, Dr. S. H. Pennington, called the society to order, and addressed the members upon the subject of "Science, sound philosophy, and cultivated intelligence, the true basis of medical reputation." A copy was requested for publication in the New Jersey Medical Reporter.

Delegates were present from fourteen districts.

The Standing Committee, by Dr. Parrish, submitted their Annual Report.

Report of the Delegates to the American Medical Association was made by Dr. Munn.

The last part of the eighth section of By-laws was amended to read as follows:—"It shall be the duty of each District Society, at its annual meeting, to appoint one of its members as a Reporter, who shall be bound to furnish the Standing Committee, on or before the second Tuesday in April, in each year, all the information which may present, relative to these subjects."

The committee on the Treasurer's account, reported a balance in his hands of \$433 88.

The sum of ten dollars was apportioned to each District Society.

CENSORS FOR EASTERN DISTRICT

Passaic.—Drs. Marsh, Condict, Terhune, and Rogers.
Essex.—S. H. Pennington, L. A. Smith, A. N. Dougherty and W. Nichols. *Morris*.—J. B. Munn, N. W. Condit, J. B. Johnes and R. W. Stevenson. *Sussex*.—J. Stewart, A. Linn,

J. Titsworth and F. Moran. *Warren*.—R. Byington, P. F. Brakeley, J. C. Fitch and L. C. Cook.

FOR MIDDLE DISTRICT.

Monmouth.—R. W. Cooke, C. C. Blauvelt, A. B. Dayton, and W. L. Debow. *Somerset*.—W. D. McKissack, J. Ludlow, H. H. Van Derveer and S. K. Martin. *Mercer*.—J. McKelway, J. B. Coleman, J. J. Dunn and G. R. Robbins. *Hunterdon*.—S. Lilly, J. F. Schenck, G. P. Rex, and J. Blane.

FOR WESTERN DISTRICT.

Burlington.—B. H. Stratton, Z. Read, J. W. C. Evans, J. Parrish and G. Haines. *Camden*.—I. S. Mulford, O. H. Taylor, C. D. Hendry, A. D. Woodruff. *Gloucester*.—J. F. Garrison, J. Weatherby, J. Fithian, J. R. Sickler. *Salem*.—J. H. Thompson, T. J. Yarrow, T. Reeves, J. Clawson, Q. Gibbon. *Cumberland*.—W. Elmer, E. E. Bateman, J. W. Ludlam, G. Tomlinson.

OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

President.—Joseph Fithian, Woodbury.

First Vice President.—E. J. Marsh.

Second “ “ John H. Phillips.

Third “ “ Othniel H. Taylor.

Corresponding Sec'y.—A. B. Dayton, Middletown Point.

Recording Secretary.—William Pierson, Orange.

Treasurer.—J. S. English, Manalapan.

Standing Committee.—James B. Coleman, Chairman, Trenton, J. J. Dunn and J. L. Taylor.

Reporter for Eastern District.—A. W. Rogers.

“ “ Middle “ Jared J. Dunn.

“ “ Western “ Quinton Gibbon.

Delegates to the American Medical Association—George R. Chetwood and Charles Garrison. Their alternates—L. A. Smith and B. H. Stratton.

Drs. L. Condict and W. A. Newell, were appointed Delegates to the Decennial National Medical Convention at Washington.

On the nomination of the Fellows present, John C. War-

ren, M. D. of Boston, was elected an honorary member.

The semi-annual meeting was ordered to be held at Camden.

The President reported that he had granted License to practice Physic and Surgery the past year, to the following gentlemen, viz: D. Hasbrouk, T. Gordon White, John V. Schenck, George S. Ward, William S. Ward, J. Stillwell Schenck, Emanuel Munk, Frederic S. Weller, Luke V. Hagerman, A. C. Haines, Horatio S. Clow, Robert Laird, Otis B. Freeman, A. T. B. Van Doren, William H. Schenck, Edward J. Ricord, J. Barron Potter, Theophilus Patterson, William Elmer, Robert M. Smallwood, Edward Mulford Porter, Isaiah S. Reeve.

Fellows present—J. T. B. Skillman, Z. Read, C. Hannah, A. Skillman, L. Condict, J. B. Munn, G. R. Chetwood, L. A. Smith, J. W. Craig, F. R. Smith, B. H. Stratton, R. Smith, F. Schenck.

The Standing Committee reported, that the proceedings at the first meeting of the Cumberland district, had been examined and found correct. Whereupon, on motion, they were allowed to present certificates of delegation, which were accepted.

On motion, Resolved, That inasmuch as the blank Diplomas are exhausted, the Recording Secretary be instructed to procure an additional number of copies of an improved character.

A communication from Morris District Society, relative to existing laws respecting illegal practitioners, was received and ordered to be laid upon the table.

Communications from the District Societies of Passaic and Warren, upon the same subject, took a similar course.

Resolved, That the sum of fifty dollars be allowed for expenses of Delegates to the American National Association.

The following, offered by Dr. Gibbon, was adopted:

Resolved, That the President of this Society be authorized to appoint a committee, whose duty it shall be, to inquire into the expediency of establishing a fund for the relief of the families of such regularly licensed physicians.

throughout the State, as may hereafter die in indigent circumstances ; and that said committee be instructed to report at the next meeting.

The following were appointed, viz; Q. Gibbon, L. Condict, O. H. Taylor, and E. J. Marsh.

The following, offered by Dr. Clarke, was adopted :

Resolved, That physicians generally, throughout the State, be advised and requested to require of those wishing to become their pupils, evidence of a proper general education, before admission into their offices.

Resolved, That a committee to revise the Charter and By-laws of this Society be appointed, to report at subsequent meetings of the Society.

The following were appointed, viz : Drs. S. H. Pennington, W. Pierson, E. J. Marsh, and A. Dayton.

The Standing Committee recommended for the honorary degree of M. D., Nathan W. Condict, of Morris county, which recommendation was referred to the next Standing Committee.

On the "License question," submitted in 1848, to the Standing Committee, the following resolution was proposed as expressive of the views of the majority of the committee, but not carried.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Society, it is expedient to abandon the present system of examining candidates for license.

The following resolution submitted by Dr. Evans was adopted :

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to draft a memorial, to be laid before the next Legislature, requesting a committee to be appointed to inquire into the necessity of a more complete system of law, in respect to public health, particularly regarding vaccination.

The following were appointed, viz : Drs. Evans, Munn, and Parrish.

The same committee were also instructed to attend to any attempts before the legislature, to interfere injuriously with the existing charter.

JULY 8. 1870.



Vol. 2 - No. 10

THE
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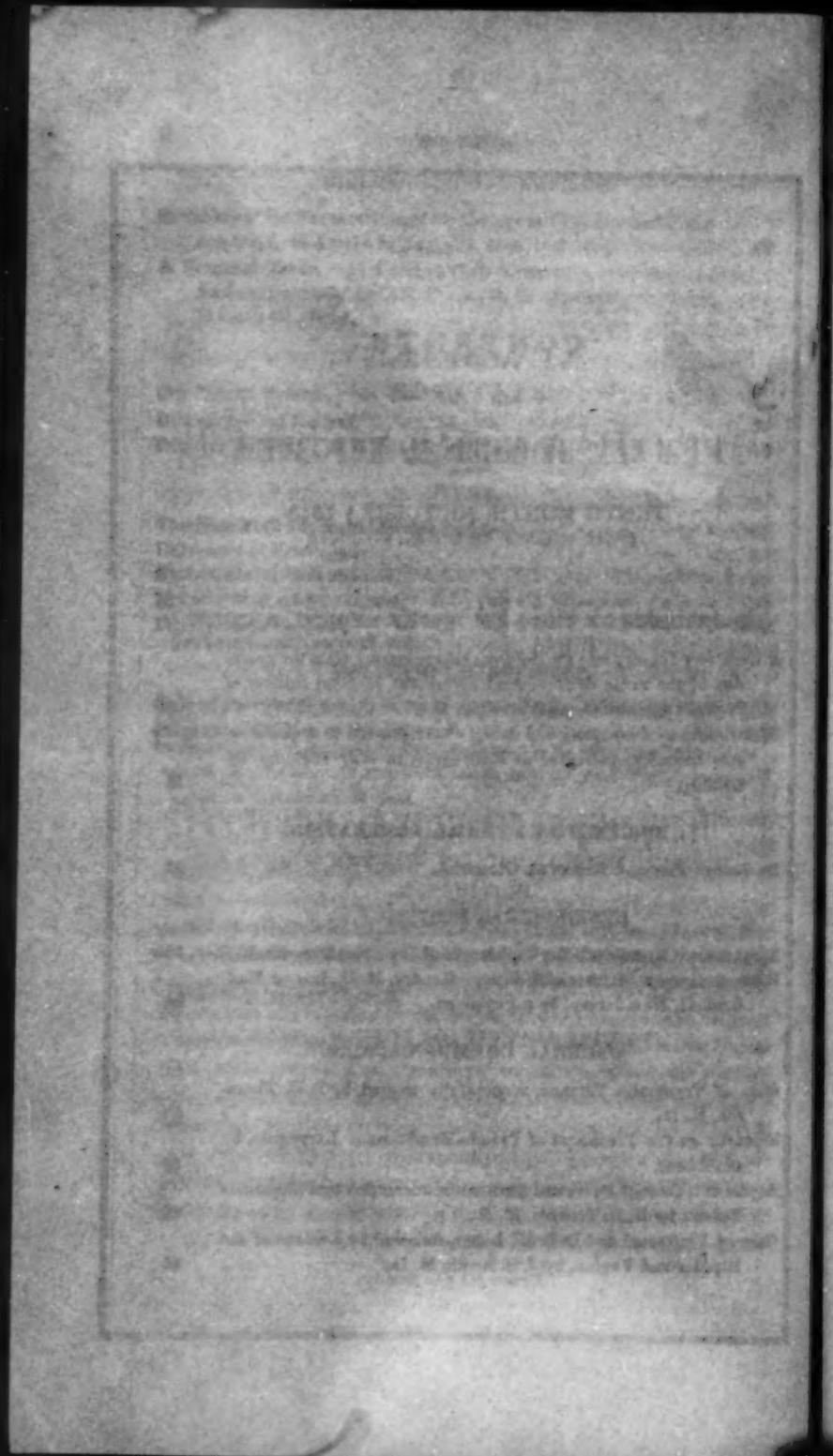
TENTH MONTH (OCTOBER,) 1848.

BURLINGTON:

PUBLISHED BY S. C. ATRINSON.

1848.

Price \$2 per annum.



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WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGIST AND APOTHECARY,

N. W. cor. of Ninth and Chestnut sts., Philadelphia.

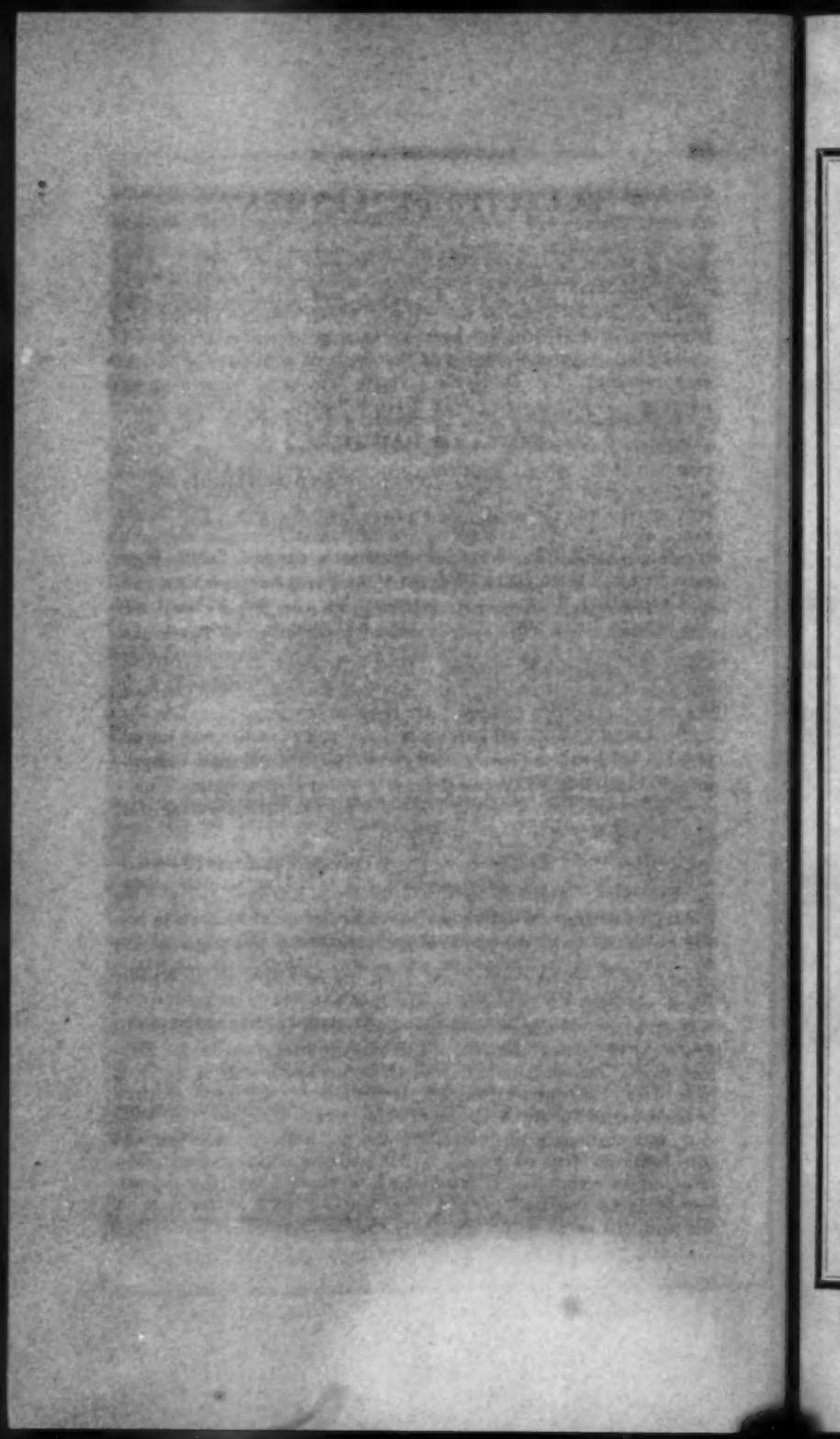
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HOLIDAY HANDBOOK

AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL.

AN Anodyne Expectorant, prepared on the new plan of combining the isolated, active principles of medicine, in their purity ; a plan which is found to give an energy and certainty of remedial effect far surpassing any other in use. The substances of which it is composed are those known to be most relied on for the relief of pulmonary disease, viz : Morphine, Sanguinarine, Emetine, Tart. Ox. Antim. et Pot., Hydrocyanic Acid, Saccharum, Spt. and Aqua ; combined so as perfectly to resist the action of time ; and affording to physicians a compound of *free permanent* hydrocyanic acid—a desideratum in medicine not hitherto obtained. Its formula has been published in this and in other Medical Journals, and also submitted to some of the highest medical authorities in this country, among which are the Berkshire College of Medicine, Pittsfield, Mass. ; Willoughby Medical College, Columbus, Ohio ; Bowdoin Medical College, Brunswick, Me. ; Vermont College of Medicine, Castleton, Vt. ; Geneva Medical College, Geneva, N. Y. ; and also in manuscript to a large part of the medical faculty of the United States.

The attention of practitioners is respectfully solicited to this preparation, and it is confidently believed it will commend itself to their favor and confidence, having been found an invaluable remedy in treating the most obstinate as well as milder forms of pulmonary disease.

Prepared by JAMES C. AYER, Lowell, Mass. Sold by Drugists and Apothecaries generally in the Northern, Middle and Southern States, the British American Provinces, and in some of the Independent Republics of South America.

СЛОВАРЬ ТЕРМИНОВ

Vol 2. Complete

THE
NEW JERSEY
MEDICAL REPORTER,

AND


TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

NEW JERSEY MEDICAL SOCIETY,

EDITED BY JOSEPH PARRISH, M. D.

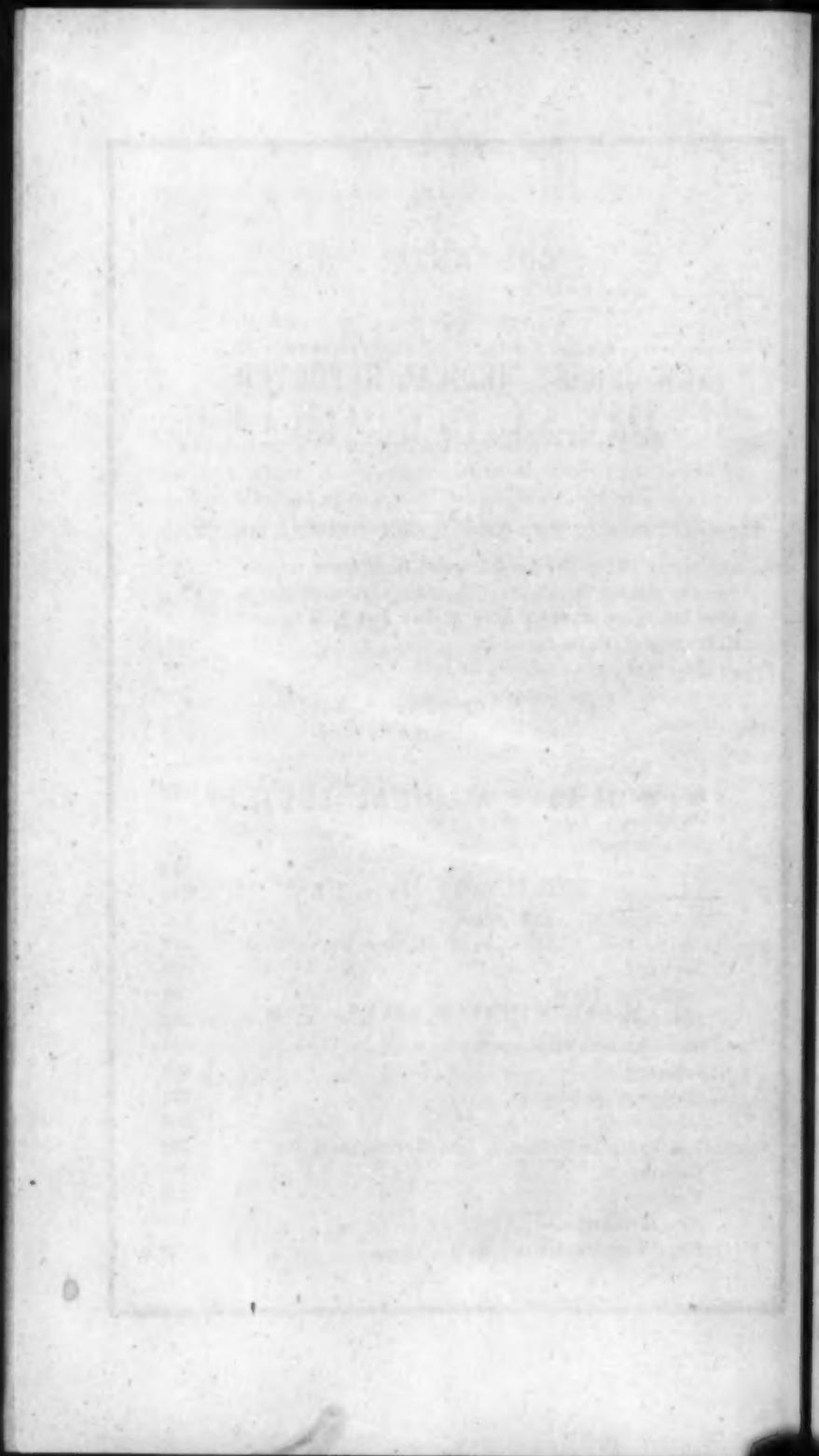
SEVENTH MONTH, (JULY,) 1849.

BURLINGTON:

PUBLISHED BY S. C. ATKINSON.

1849.

Price \$2 per annum.



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